

LACERATA, Italy — An Italian tennis star who was injured during an exhibition match in last week's Wimbledon tournament, broke his leg on Monday and broke his arm on Tuesday. The 27-year-old player, Andre Agassi, was hit by a backhand shot from a black bird named "Bibi" in the exhibition match. Agassi, who was playing for the "Bibi" team, was hit in the right leg and arm. He was taken to a hospital in London and is expected to be out of action for several weeks. Agassi's injury occurred during a match between the "Bibi" team and the "Lacera" team. The match was part of a charity event for the "Bibi" team. Agassi's injury was a major setback for him, as he was expected to be a strong contender for the Wimbledon title. He is now expected to be out of action for several weeks.

Diana seeing
English rugby
captain — papa

ONDON (AP) — Princess Diana was seen at a rugby match on Monday, where she was seen with her father, Prince Philip. The princess was seen in the stands, watching the match between the English and the Welsh. She was seen with her father, who was also in the stands. The match was a friendly match between the two teams. The princess was seen smiling and waving to the crowd. She was seen with her father, who was also smiling and waving. The match was a friendly match between the two teams. The princess was seen smiling and waving to the crowd. She was seen with her father, who was also smiling and waving.

Berry Adams is
lates were with
protestant girls

ONDON (AP) — A group of Protestant girls were seen with Berry Adams on Monday. The girls were seen in a group, and they were all wearing Protestant symbols. They were seen with Berry Adams, who was also wearing a Protestant symbol. The girls were seen in a group, and they were all wearing Protestant symbols. They were seen with Berry Adams, who was also wearing a Protestant symbol. The girls were seen in a group, and they were all wearing Protestant symbols. They were seen with Berry Adams, who was also wearing a Protestant symbol.

Arms ship's crew missing in Egypt

NICOSIA (AFP) — The Dutch captain and five crew members of a ship carrying ammunition to Kuwait are "missing" since being arrested by Egyptian officials who stopped the vessel on July 26, a representative of the ship owners here said Monday. "We are extremely worried about them. We don't know where they are since being arrested. We consider them missing people," George Stavris told AFP. The Dutch embassy in Cairo repeated on Sunday a request for information on Captain Nanno Douma and expressed "concern" for his fate, a spokesman for the Dutch Foreign Ministry told AFP in the Hague. Egyptian officials "promised a quick response," the spokesman said. But Mr. Stavris, the representative in Cyprus for the Honduran company which owns the Angeliki M, said: "Egypt has refused to give any information on them since the arrest. They are acting without any regard for law and regulation." Cairo has given no official reason for stopping the ship at Port Said at the north mouth of the Suez Canal.

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Croatia says assault on Krajina is over

Thousands of fleeing refugees come under shelling

Combined agency dispatches

ZAGREB — Defence Minister Gojko Susak said the Croatian military strike to retake Serb-held land in Croatia's Krajina region had ended late Monday. "As far as military operations are concerned, they are over," he told a press conference here. "Five to six thousand Serbs are currently surrendering at Topusko," 60 kilometres south of Zagreb, he added. Mr. Susak said that 118 government troops had been killed in the operation and 620 wounded. There was no official figure for the number of Serb dead.

The figures were the first official tally of dead in the conflict. Fighting had continued earlier Monday in Croatia after retreating Serbs from the Topusko area refused to hand over their heavy weapons to U.N. control and attempted to take them to neighbouring Bosnia-Herzegovina. "Control of Croatian territory was fully established at 18:00 (1600 GMT)," Mr. Susak said. But U.N. officials said fighting was still going on along the Bosnian border at the town of Dvor between Croat troops and rebel Croatian Serbs.

Egyptian, UAE leaders meet

CAIRO (AP) — The presidents of Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met Monday in Alexandria to search for ways to mend long-standing rifts in the Arab World caused by the 1991 Gulf war. President Hosni Mubarak greeted Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan at the Alexandria airport, and the two then headed for the Montazah presidential palace on the Mediterranean coast. The two leaders were expected to focus on Arab reconciliation and the need for greater cooperation to face emerging regional trade blocs, the Egyptian news agency MENA reported. On Tuesday, Sheikh Zayed leaves Egypt for Syria, where he will meet President Hafez Al Assad.

Rabin denies security stepped up

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin denied Monday a newspaper report that security has been tightened around him for fear of an assassination bid by Jewish extremists. The daily Maariv said Sunday that security had been increased after intelligence services warned of a "real" danger of attempts on the life of Mr. Rabin. Chief of Staff General Amnon Shahak, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, "It's rubbish," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "Nothing has been stepped up and nothing of what was published in the press has any basis in reality. Nothing has changed."

Cairo police foil press conference

MENOUFIA (AP) — Dozens of policemen blocked supporters of Egypt's largest Islamic group from holding a news conference Monday to respond to a recent government crackdown on the group. An armoured vehicle was parked outside the building and police with clubs and shields stood in a line across the entrance, blocking members from entering.

Grenade wounds 6 Jordanian soldiers

A CROATIAN army soldier threw a grenade into a U.N. peacekeepers' shelter on Monday, wounding six Jordanians, a U.N. military spokeswoman said. The incident occurred 55 kilometres southwest of Zagreb in territory retaken from rebel minority Serbs by government troops rolling over U.N. ceasefire lines. U.N. major Rita Lepage said a lone Croat soldier tossed a grenade into the U.N. Jordanian battalion bunker southeast of Karlovac. Government troops were driving remnant formations of Serbs out of the area towards Bosnia at the time. Two of the Jordanians were injured seriously and all were admitted to the U.S. military hospital in Zagreb set up specially for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in ex-Yugoslavia.

Storm swept through the Serb-held Krajina at a stunning pace since dawn on Friday. By Sunday evening the last retreating Serb soldiers were pushing towards Dvor seeking refuge with Bosnian Serb brethren. The defeat of Krajina, carved out of Croatia by rebel Serbs in 1991, leaves only the eastern Slavonia enclave on Serbia's border outside the control of the Zagreb government. Croatia says there will be no military action. U.N. officers say several thousand Serbs are still trapped inside Croatia and many men had not yet been dis-

Arafat, Peres in fresh bid to push autonomy

TABA, Egypt (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres opened another push Monday towards overcoming the deep differences that have kept the two sides from developing their nascent peace. "We will try to bridge our gaps," Mr. Peres said as he arrived in this Red Sea resort, but he conceded "it's a long list." He mentioned arguments over sharing water, Israeli security and redeployment of Israel's troops from populated areas in the West Bank as the main obstacles to an agreement on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the occupied area. When asked about an Arafat statement that Monday's meeting would finally overcome the disputes, Mr. Peres said that if the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader "agrees to what is necessary, anything is reasonable." Mr. Arafat arrived in Taba about five hours before the meeting and did not talk to reporters. The talks are aimed at finally agreeing on a date for the much-delayed election of a Palestinian authority, which under earlier agreements requires the Israeli army to withdraw from the West Bank's main Palestinian towns. Both sides saw the meeting here as necessary to get the process moving, but the site is a sad reminder of past failures. It was almost 20 months ago in Taba that Israel and the PLO opened talks to make a reality of the peace principles they signed in Washington on Sept. 13, 1993. Now, their bright hopes have faded amid squabbling in the negotiations and violence on the ground, and their fixed timetable for steps towards peace is more than a year behind schedule. The Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz said Monday that Mr. Peres was to propose at

Foreign ministers exchange interviews Kuwait urges Jordan, PLO steps towards 'reconciliation'

AMMAN (R) — Kuwait has urged Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to press Iraq to implement U.N. Gulf war resolutions to help restore their ties with the emirate, frozen since Iraq invaded Kuwait five years ago. Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah made the demand in an interview with the weekly Al Hadath published on Monday — his first with a Jordanian newspaper since ties were soured during the Gulf crisis. Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti has also given an interview to a Kuwaiti daily, Al Seyassah, to be published on Tuesday. Arab diplomats said the move, initiated by the two newspapers, reflected both countries' desire to gradually mend fences. Sheikh Sabah, asked when "Coolness" in Kuwait's ties with Jordan and the Palestinians would end, said: "Frankly, we want a clear demand (from them) from Iraq to implement all United Nations resolutions related to its aggression on Kuwait, especially the issue of Kuwaiti detainees, return of (stolen) property and adherence to all resolutions." Kuwait and its Gulf Arab allies were angered by the perceived pro-Iraqi sympathy of Jordan and the PLO during the Gulf crisis which divided the Arab World. Amman's ties with other Gulf Arab states are almost back to normal.



Croatian army soldiers wave as they travel by tractor after capturing the town of Knin from rebel Serbs (Reuters photo)

Jordan denounces Israeli steps in Arab Jerusalem

Sharif Zeid reaffirms total support for Palestinian quest for their rights

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government on Monday reiterated that Arab East Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine and reaffirmed Jordan's firm stand alongside the Palestinians in their struggle to regain their territorial rights. The reaffirmation of the Jordanian position was voiced by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker during an Upper House of Parliament (Senate) meeting chaired by Speaker Ahmad Lawzi. Speaking at the outset of the session, the prime minister said that he had communicated with Faisal Hussein, the minister in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestine National Authority (PNA), by telephone to reaffirm the Jordanian government's absolute support for the Palestinian people in their courageous stand in defence of the holy shrines in Jerusalem. "We will continue to offer the Palestinians all our support on these rights and objectives," the prime minister said, adding that "what happened in Jerusalem Sunday was a dangerous precedent." Jordan will contact Arab leaders to ensure a collective Arab stand in this regard, Sharif Zeid said. The prime minister's address to the Senate followed the issuance of an official Jordanian statement on Sunday expressing deep concern over attempts by a Jewish group known as the Temple Mount Faithful to enter the Haram Al Sharif compound, which houses the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem following an Israeli supreme court ruling allowing Jews the right of access to the holy shrines. The court ruling, Sharif Zeid told the Senate, is a dangerous precedent.

Israelis reopen Haram Al Sharif

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police allowed Muslims to return to pray at the Haram Al Sharif complex in old Jerusalem on Monday, a day after closing the compound when dozens of Jews tried to force their way in. "The gates are open normally today," said Adnan Hussein, director of the Muslim religious authority which manages the complex. Israeli extremists, who want to build a Jewish temple on the site, clashed with police on Sunday, a day of mourning for Jews marking what they consider as the destruction of the first and second temples by the Babylonians and the Romans. The Islamic Jihad group meanwhile warned Israel against any incursions on Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem. "Islamic Jihad warns the Zionist enemy against any attacks on the Al Aqsa Mosque and the holy sites," the fundamentalist group said in a statement received in Nicotia. "We call on the Palestinian people to demonstrate each day and organise sit-ins in the mosque to prevent the Zionist terrorists from violating them," it added. The supreme court last week ruled in favour of the Temple Mount Faithful Israeli group, granting them the right to tour, but not to pray, in the complex. Denouncing the decision as "discriminatory," Islamic Jihad statement said it represented a "challenge to the feelings of Muslims and Arabs around the world." Libya meanwhile called for a holy war to liberate Jerusalem. "We urge the Arab League and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to take the necessary measures to conduct a Jihad to liberate Jerusalem," the Libyan Ministry of Arab Unity said in a statement. "We denounce the (supreme court) decision which shows how Israel defies the decisions of Islamic summits and U.N. resolutions," the statement, carried by the official news service JANA, said. The ministry called the court ruling a "sacrilege," saying it was "part of an Israeli plan to Judaize Jerusalem by altering the geography and demography of the Holy City. Clashes broke out Sunday between Israeli police and dozens of Jewish extremists from the Temple Mount Faithful group who demand the right to pray at the compound. Dressed in sackcloth and chains, members of the group gathered outside the Mugrabi Gate into the walled enclosure. Police twice escorted the Israelis into the complex, but when dozens of Muslims surrounded them, police spirited them out of the area. Jerusalem police chief Aryeh Amit then decided to close the area to visitors after meeting with members of the Islamic trust that runs the complex. Scuffles erupted as hundreds of religious Jews repeatedly pushed against a police barrier in an attempt to reach the area.

Bosnian army routs Abdic

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Bosnian government forces in the Bihac enclave recaptured Velika Kladusa on Monday and "utterly routed" troops loyal to the rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, U.N. officials said.

The move is a remarkable reversal of fortunes for the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps which may be Sarajevo's first concrete benefit from the crushing defeat inflicted by the Croatian army on Krajina Serb forces just across the border.

Danish U.N. Major Ole Reith said Fifth Corps soldiers entered Velika Kladusa, Mr. Abdic's stronghold in the north of the enclave, at about midday (1000 GMT). "Abdic's forces were utterly routed," Maj. Reith said.

The U.N. officer said Abdic units fled north into the tiny patch of Croatia still under the control of the Krajina Serb army, adding that the men could have joined the refugees heading out of Croatia.

Alexander Ivanko, a U.N. spokesman, said Mr. Abdic had been sighted at a nearby chicken farm with members of his militia which sided with the Krajina forces last year. Some of his forces had also surrendered to the government army, Mr. Ivanko said.

Only last month the Fifth Corps faced possible extinction at the hands of the Krajina Serb army who had pushed deep into the pocket from the west while their Abdic allies advanced from the north.

The enclave had been besieged by Bosnian and Croatian Serb forces for the entire three year Bosnian conflict. The Krajina Serb offensive seems to have been a gamble to divide the enclave in two handing the northern part in Mr. Abdic and cementing a territorial link between the two rebel Serb states in Bosnia and Croatia.

However, it was a gamble which backfired when it became the excuse Zagreb was looking for to send in the Croatian army to end the four year Serb rebellion in Croatia.

On Sunday, U.N. military observers reported the Fifth Corps troops who had punched out westwards to link up with the Croatian army on the weekend had retaken much of the ground lost to the Krajina Serbs in their July advance.

Mr. Abdic, a local businessman, split with Sarajevo in late 1993 and signed a local peace pact with the Serbs but never managed to gain the fulsome support of everyone living in the enclave.

Western military analysts said the swift victory of the Croat action and that of the Fifth Corps to turn round their near defeat will worry the Serbs in Bosnia.

Kuwaiti-Palestinian chasm remains deep

KUWAIT (R) — The handicapped Kuwaiti gestured fondly from his wheelchair at a Palestinian doctor who helped care for him during Iraq's occupation.

"They and we are Arabs. There is no difference. We are the same," said Saleh Abdul Halim Al Ajmi.

Sadly for both Mr. Ajmi and his Palestinian doctor Bassam Qasrawi, their friendship is the exception that proves the rule.

A vast political chasm between their communities endures, five years after the Iraqi invasion that gave it birth.

"This has been a serious wedge between two Arab communities who have been allies since 1936, when the first Palestinian teachers came to Kuwait and introduced modern education," said Shafiq Ghabra, a Kuwaiti of Palestinian origin.

"Everyone was a victim of high politics."

A longtime resident of a state home for the handicapped, Mr. Ajmi was one of hundreds of inmates bathed, dressed and cared for in the occupation in desperate circumstances by staff like Dr. Qasrawi, and volunteers who included 13 of Dr. Qasrawi's relatives.

Palestinians helped to save his life, for a study by Dr. Qasrawi shows 152 inmates died of starvation or disease caused by malnutrition in Iraq's occupation and the five following months.

Dr. Qasrawi is one of the few Palestinians who has stayed on.

Up to 400,000 Palestinians, many of them longtime residents, fled during the seven-month occupation or were forced to leave after the 1991 Gulf war that ended it, amid hostility from Kuwaitis who suspected all Palestinians of collaboration.

Kuwaitis angrily point to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) support for Iraq during the crisis, dismissing the role some Palestinians played in resisting Iraqi occupation.

Palestinians reply that most opposed Iraq's invasion on Aug. 2, 1990, especially after Iraq troops began looting their homes. That is why more than 200,000 left during

the occupation itself.

The Palestinians' anger stems also from post-war killings of scores of alleged collaborators including Palestinians by Kuwaiti gunmen who rampaged through Kuwait City seeking revenge, atrocities which cost Kuwait a measure of world sympathy.

Most of the Palestinians who left have not been allowed to return. Now, on housing estates, Asians in baggy trousers and brightly coloured saris and Egyptians in Arab robes stroll where Palestinians thronged before the war.

In government offices, Egyptians sit at desks where generations of Palestinian technicians helped turn the Gulf state from a desert outpost into an oil power. Egyptian teachers write on blackboards once used by Palestinian teachers.

Kuwait's Palestinians were the largest single expatriate community. Now only 30,000 or so remain set apart from about 2,000 Kuwaitis of Palestinian origin who wield extensive influence and enjoy the lavish welfare benefits of Kuwaiti nationality.

Palestinians are still cautious and keep a low profile but they say life has become slightly easier in the past year.

They are being issued residence permits of up to three years, three times as long as the permits issued shortly after the war, and driving licences with a 10-year validity, 10 times as long as permits issued after the war.

Palestinians coming from Jordan used to be routinely questioned at Kuwait airport, often in a hostile atmosphere. Some say this happens less often nowadays.

Flights to Amman via Beirut are carrying increasing numbers of Kuwaitis visiting Jordanian relatives, Palestinians say.

And Jordanians jailed for alleged collaboration with Iraq have been allowed visits by Jordan-based relatives for the first time.

"With all my relatives in Jordan, there is no one to visit in the evening. I go to work, go shopping, then go home to sleep. The smile is gone," said hotel employee Eyad.



MISSION AMID PROTESTS: Rolf Ekeus, head of the United Nations Special Commission for disarming Iraq, leaves Baghdad's Al Rashid Hotel on Sunday after a visit to the Iraqi capital as an Iraqi woman (right) protests against the

continuing U.N. sanctions against Iraq. Her banner reads: "Give back our human rights." Mr. Ekeus refused to meet the protesters before leaving Baghdad for Bahrain at the end of a three-day mission (AFP photo)

Pakistani captives pray under guard in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Eleven miserable looking Pakistanis and a Palestinian taken hostage five months ago by Somali gunmen said their morning prayers Monday under heavy guard.

A group of journalists, after a 13-hour overnight stake-out on nearby rooftops, saw the 12 hostages — all fishermen — emerge for ritual ablutions before their prayers, with a gunman for every two captives.

They are being held in a room six metres square which has its two windows sealed up and a hole cut in the roof for ventilation.

It is close to the south Mogadishu residence of warlord Mohammed Farah Aided.

The hostages were "arrested" by the gunmen in March while fishing off Jilib-Merca beach, 26 kilometres south of Mogadishu, according to Abdul Ali Mohammad, a former employee of an international relief agency here.

A neighbour who said he had talked to the captives said they told him that they

Tourism on the increase in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — The number of tourists to Egypt during the first half of 1995 rose to 1.3 million, 23.8 per cent higher than the same period in 1994, the tourism ministry said on Monday.

Germany sent the greatest number of visitors to Egypt at 139,153, while Italy came next with 103,786 tourists, ministry spokesman Magdi Shukri told AFP.

Among Arab countries, Libya was the largest source, with 70,982 visitors.

The number of tourists from Saudi Arabia, the second largest Arab source, dropped to 70,529, down 4.89 per cent compared to the first half of 1994. But increases in August should make up for the slump, Cairo hoteliers predicted.

In June, the Riyadh press "called on Saudis to boycott Egypt, a 'favourite' summer resort, after protests in Egyptian papers against the whipping of an Egyptian doctor in the kingdom who claimed his son had been raped by a Saudi.

Egypt has launched a large tourism publicity campaign in Arab countries and Europe in the past two years to boost the industry, one of its main foreign currency earners, following militant attacks on tourists in 1992 and 1993.

Tourism receipts plummeted from \$2.2 billion in 1992 to \$1.3 billion in 1993 and \$1.5 billion in 1994, Tourism Minister Mamduh Bahgat predicted that 1995 income would reach \$2 billion.

Militants killed 12 tourists in attacks early in their violent campaign to overthrow the government which has left more than 830 Egyptians dead since March 1992.

Water shortages loom

Egypt is facing water shortages in the next five years while a large part of the Nile waters are wasted, the minister of public works and water resources said Monday.

Mohammad Abdul Hadi Radi told the government daily Al-Ahram: "A shortage of water resources is threatening to hit Egypt in the next five years.

The fittest survive on Lebanon's roads

BEIRUT (AFP) — Motorists and pedestrians are increasingly at peril on Lebanon's war-battered roads, where the unofficial highway code is survival of the fittest.

Police said 508 people died on the roads in the first six months of 1995, compared with 613 for the whole of last year.

The Lebanese Red Cross (LRC) said 88 more people died in July alone, in 310 accidents. Multiple pile-ups, overturned cars, and crashes over bridges and into ravines have become commonplace.

More than 300 people were hospitalized last month, including 50 patients in comas.

"The main causes of accidents are the run-down state of the roads, people not respecting the highway code, speeding, and a lack of road signs and lighting," said Dr. Sauma Wakim, a medical adviser to the LCR.

A steep rise in the number of cars has also contributed to the dangers, with 1.5 million cars registered in a country of four million people covering an area of only 10,500 square kilometres.

"Our road network was badly damaged in the (1975-1990) war and we'll have to wait for the end of the reconstruction works, the building of highways and new roads to have a minimum level of security," said police officer Omar Halabi.

Pedestrians are also at high risk in Lebanon, where traffic

lights and crossings are almost non-existent.

The country has had an official highway code since 1960, built around the principle of priority to the car coming from the right. But the unofficial code is survival of the fittest, and "bad drivers died long ago."

Since the civil war ended in 1990 and up until this year, a driving license was something you paid for without having to sit any tests.

Today, 14-year-old children often drive at breakneck speed through the streets of Beirut, especially if they have parents with influential posts and can drive with impunity.

Car safety for children is also not taken seriously. Parents carry their infants on their knees and baby-seats are a rarity.

Adding to the hazards of driving: Breathalysers do not exist despite the Lebanese penchant for arak, an aniseed-based alcoholic drink; putting on seat belts is frowned upon; and 80 per cent of cars on the roads are not insured.

Several injured motorists died at the doors of private hospitals last year because they did not have medical insurance and could not pay in advance at least a third of the medical fees.

But Health Ministry Marwan Hamadeh has filed cases against the hospitals for failing to assist accident victims.

Israeli 'heroes' face crimes complaint

TEL AVIV (AFP) — A left-wing militant and former deputy is pressing to have two Israeli right-wing leaders and a retired colonel, implicated in the killing in 1996 of Egyptian prisoners, tried for war crime. Uri Avnery, who heads the Peace Bloc movement, told AFP on Monday that he has asked police and attorney general Michael Ben Yair to begin proceedings. The move came after the army's historical record department last month published details of a massacre by an Israeli parachute unit of 35 Egyptians during the Suez war. "There is no prosecution for such crimes," Mr. Avnery said. Retired parachute colonel Aryeh Biro, admitted last week that he shot dead in cold blood as many as 49 Egyptian prisoners near the Midra pass on the Sinai peninsula. He was leading a parachute unit of the 89th battalion commanded by Raphael Eytan, under Ariel Sharon. General Sharon became defence minister and is still a prominent deputy with the right-wing Likud party while Gen. Eytan, later made chief of staff, heads the far-right Tzomet party. Gen. Eytan has claimed he could not remember exact details of the killings. "Since 1956 I have tried to publish this affair, but the censors stopped me," Mr. Avnery said. "Such acts are not just odious crimes but threaten the lives of Israeli soldiers who fall into enemy hands."

Ciller urges better protection for Turks

BONN (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has urged Germany to give better protection to her compatriots from a wave of firebomb attacks that she blamed on the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Ms. Ciller acknowledged the efforts German police have made to counter arsonists who have hit dozens of Turkish properties over the past three weeks but said they had to do more. "A more resolute approach by security forces to moving against the perpetrators and prosecuting them would have more of a deterrent impact," she told the newspaper Bild.

"One may not allow Germany to become a paradise for criminals," Turkish officials have repeatedly urged Bonn to take a harder line against members or sympathisers of the PKK, which Bonn banned in 1993 after a series of violent protests.

PNA: No talks on return of Israeli's body

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) denied a report Monday that it had negotiated with a Hamas dissident in Sudan for the return of an Israeli soldier killed by militants in 1989. The Arab daily Al Hayat said talks took place in July between the deputy head of Palestinian preventive security, Colonel Rashid Abu Shbak, and a former military leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), Mohammed Nassar.

"The newspaper article is totally false. I have no idea about the matter," Mr. Abu Shbak said in a statement. The London-based newspaper said Mr. Abu Shbak gave Mr. Nassar a letter from PNA Chief Yasser Arafat offering him \$250,000 and permission to return to Gaza if he revealed where the body of soldier Ilan Saadon was buried.

5 years after Iraq invaded, GCC still needs West

DUBAI (R) — Gulf Arab states have spent billions of dollars on new arms since Iraqi troops seized Kuwait five years ago. But they know in their hearts that if attacked again, they would still rely on the West to come to their rescue.

"There are no false illusions," an Arab expert said.

"The point is: If, God forbid, we are faced with a similar threat, we want to be able to carry a larger share of the defence burden together with our allies."

The Gulf states' military weakness was again clear last October when the United States, Britain and France rushed in troops to deter an Iraqi build-up along the Kuwaiti border.

For a few days, the spectre of Iraqi tanks rumbling across the desert again haunted the world. On Aug. 2, 1990, Baghdad's forces had invaded neighbouring Kuwait before dawn and were in control by mid-morning, meeting

little or no resistance.

Since Iraq's 1991 Gulf war defeat, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have signed defence mainly with Western allies and held dozens of military exercises. They have also announced joint Arab defence plans that have so far failed to materialise.

"What has happened in five years is that the GCC made a decision to internationalise the security of the Gulf by involving world powers," another well-placed Arab expert said.

"The invasion of Kuwait highlighted the vulnerability of GCC states and until such a time comes when they can fully depend on themselves they get outsiders to help," he added.

Neither the Kuwaiti military nor a slightly smaller joint GCC army, now undergoing a restructuring and doubling to about 17,000 men, could do much in 1990 to even delay the advance of the far superior

Iraqi army.

Iraq, although crippled by U.N. sanctions, still has the region's largest war machine.

The Gulf Arab states also see a potential threat from Iran and its fundamentalist Islamic vision across the narrow Gulf. Tehran is undertaking a big rearmament programme including Russian submarines, warplanes and missiles.

GCC members Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait have arms deals mainly with the United States, Britain, France and Russia worth more than \$40 billion till the end of the century. Their smaller partners — Oman, Qatar and Bahrain — are also spending millions to boost their defences.

Arms on order or pending deals range from top-of-the-line jet fighters, attack and anti-submarine warfare helicopters and frigates to

patriot anti-missile missiles, air defence systems, missiles, French and U.S. tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, fast patrol crafts and other hardware.

GCC states, which control half of the world's proven oil reserves, still lack enough well-trained professional soldiers able to operate advanced arms on order.

"I don't think the issue is if they can defend themselves on their own," said a U.S. analyst. "The question is: Are they able to hold on longer (than in 1990) until help arrives?"

Iran, which shares with Oman control of the only entrance to the Gulf, has 62 million people compared with a total GCC population of 23 million. Iraq's 20 million people are still more than the Gulf Arab indigenous population, excluding the large expatriate workforce.

Saudi Arabia, a major

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
14:00	Captain Planet
14:30	M.A.N.T.I.S.
15:00	Road to Avonlea
16:00	Families
17:00	Spirou
17:30	Montaigne
17:50	Tartarus
19:00	News in French
19:15	Faut Pas Rever
19:30	News Headlines
19:35	You Be Your Life
20:00	Piplet Files
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:00	Urban Angel
22:00	News in English
22:25	Death of Apartheid
23:30	New York Undercover
23:59	Keeping Up Appearances

PRAYER TIMES	
04:24	Fajr
05:20	(Summer) Dhuhr
12:44	Dhuhr
16:21	'Asr
19:32	Maghrib
21:59	Isha

CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church	Swifich, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church	Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church	Tel. 634550
Church of the Annunciation	Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church	Tel. 661757

WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Moderate weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	18/30
Aqaba	23 / 36
Deserts	18 / 36
Jordan Valley	25 / 38

TERRACE CHURCH Tel: 622364	
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German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	

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Dr. Shuairi Abu Zaid	737962
Dr. Walid Al Maari	677485
Dr. Yousef Rashid	886301
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636731
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shimoun pharmacy	637660
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Najih pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Omari	272102
Al Omari pharmacy	— (—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Yousef Abu Sa'd	989000
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Center	812613/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6442106
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	042441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mahjan, J. Amman	636141
Palestine, Shmebani	664171/4
Shmebani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	643645
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Adhali	660127/7
Al-Ahli, Adhali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	660101
Amal Hospital	607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery	865199
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)980540
Jbn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)980949
IRBID:	
Prince Basma Hospital	(02)225555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)227275
Im Al Nafes Hospital	(02)347100
Protecta Haya Hospital	(03)241111

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
 Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
 Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
 Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower prices in fils per kg.

Apple	700 / 800
Banana	600 / 500
Banana (Mukammur)	620
Cabbage	120 / 170
Carrot	220 / 200
Cauliflower	250 / 120
Cucumbers (large)	150 / 100
Cucumbers (small)	200 / 100
Eggplant	180 / 100
Feta	550 / 400
Garlic	600 / 500
Grapes	450 / 300
Leimon	180 / 100
Marrow (large)	180 / 100
Marrow (small)	300 / 200
Mulukhia	150 / 100
Okra	300 / 600
Onion (dry)	180 / 100
Orange	450 / 300
Peaches	800 / 600
Pepper (hot)	180 / 100
Pepper (sweet)	160 / 100
Pointe	450 / 300
String Beans	380 / 280
Sweet Melon	270 / 100
Tomato	140 / 80
Water Melon	170 / 160

21:00	Aden (DY)
21:10	Beirut (ME)
23:20	Amsterdam (RO)
00:55	Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ)
 Flights
 (Terminal 1)

06:40	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
08:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
09:40	Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
12:10	Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
13:00	Geneva, Brussels (GF)
13:10	Paris (RJ)
14:05	Cairo, Alexandria (RJ)
14:15	London (RJ)
21:55	Madrid (RJ)
21:05	Luxembourg (RJ)
21:20	Jeddah (RJ)
21:45	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:05	Damascus (RJ)
22:20	
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Doha (RJ)

Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:30	Damascus, Paris (AF)
08:45	Beirut (ME)
09:45	Cairo (MS)
13:40	Vienna (OS)
14:30	Ahu Dhabi (GF)
14:55	
Sharm Al Sheikh, Munich (VP)	
15:20	Damascus (AZ)
22:40	Riyadh (SV)
06:25	Aden (DY)
06:35	Amsterdam (KL)
01:55	Bucharest (RO)

PSD chief says police units in Croatia in fine condition, carrying out duties

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan Monday said Jordanian police units serving with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Croatia are in fine condition and are carrying out their humanitarian duties as usual.

Lt. Gen. Adwan said he received a cable Sunday from the commander of the Jordanian police force deployed in areas taken by the Croats from the Serbs saying several units pulled out from areas which witnessed fierce fighting and managed to join the Jordanian peace keeping force.

He said other units held to their positions and were not harassed by any of the two feuding parties.

The PSD chief said all the Jordanian police units are exhibiting high morale and are in good health.

On Sunday, Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Marei Kaabneh said the Jordanian military troops in the former Yugoslav republic are acting in complete neutrality and are implementing instructions they receive from the U.N. Gen. Kaabneh said that the troops, which are stationed near the fighting areas, are well-equipped to defend themselves.

Late Sunday evening the commander of the Jordanian UNPROFOR forces in the former Yugoslavia, Major General Eid Kamel Roudhan, spoke live to Jordan Television.

Maj. Gen. Roudhan said the conditions of the Jordanian forces were very reassuring. He said that at the start of the military operations Croatia forces had detained some of the U.N. troops for their own safety.

Many of them later returned to their positions, he said.

Maj. Gen. Roudhan said some U.N. units were hit by artillery attacks in some isolated areas, three troops were killed and five injured — none of the casualties were Jordanian, he said.



Abdul Rahman Adwan

Visiting PNA official looks into cooperation in labour fields

AMMAN (J.T.) — Undersecretary of the Ministry of Labour in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Hisham Anabtawi, who met in Amman Monday with Minister of Labour Nader Abul Sha'ar and the Ministry's Secretary General Saleh Tarawneh, said in a statement that the PNA is trying to benefit from Jordan's experience in labour-related affairs.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Mr. Anabtawi reviewed the labour situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and said unemployment in those areas was estimated at 38.5 per cent and 50 per cent respectively.

"We have come to Jordan confident that Amman will respond favourably to our quest for cooperation in labour-related matters and in ways of controlling the labour market," said Mr. Anabtawi who added that the PNA hopes to conclude a related protocol with Jordan.

Mr. Anabtawi also outlined the PNA's plans to offer vocational training courses in order to properly qualify individuals in various occupations as well as to train workers in health and safety measures.

Mr. Anabtawi had earlier met Dr. Abul Sha'ar and conveyed to him a verbal message on plans for cooperation from Samir Ghosheh, the PNA minister of labour.

In another development, PNA Minister of Post and Communications Abdul Hafiz Ashhab conferred Monday with his Jordanian counterpart Jamal Saraireh and discussed the implementation of a bilateral agreement signed earlier this year between Jordan and the PNA and measures for the future exchange of mail between the two sides and other Arab countries through Jordan.

Other topics of discussion included the PNA's drive to join the Universal Postal Union.

Experts learn about industrial automation advances

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course on industrial automation and the use of control equipment opened at the Amman Applied Engineering University College with the participation of specialists from eight Arab countries.

Educational specialists from the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Sudan, Libya, Palestine as well as Jordan are taking part in the seminar, which is organised by the Arab Technical Education Federation.

Assistant Secretary General of the federation Ahmad Bashir said the seminar will focus on developments in computer fields and their influence on industries and automation processes.

Assistant Secretary General of the Ministry of Higher Education Riyadh Gharaibeh delivered an address in which he underlined the importance of technical and vocational training, saying it has a basic role in developing human and economic resources.

Dr. Gharaibeh said Jordan was aware of the need to keep up with changes in educational and technological fields and updating the Kingdom's educational policies and expanding educational institutions.

The Ministry of Higher Education, he said, was intent on developing the performance of community colleges and activating their role in preparing qualified cadres for the labour market.

To do this, he added, the ministry will adopt an integrated plan in cooperation with all productive sectors which should help the ministry in defining needs for new courses and specialisations at the colleges.

Dr. Gharaibeh said the ministry has been working on attracting foreign financial resources to develop existing specialisations taught at colleges and starting new ones.

He said the funds were used in modernising equipment, training teachers and developing curricula.

The course, which will continue until Aug. 17, aims to deepen the participants' scientific and technical knowledge.

Ministry contracts international firms for studies on land transport

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Transport Monday awarded a contract worth \$760,000 for two studies on Jordan's land transport to a consortium of three international firms.

Minister of Transport Samir Kavar, who signed the contract with a representative of the three firms, said in a statement after the signing ceremony that the study is needed in order to modernise the land transport sector for both goods and passengers.

"The present level of land transport in Jordan is unacceptable and can by no means cater to our present needs or to the requirements of our future," said the minister.

A significant amount of trucks in Jordan are more than 40 years old and are still utilised to transport goods, he said.

One study will deal with this vehicle quality problem. The second study, Mr.

Kavar said, will focus on passenger transportation within the capital and other major towns, as well as regional transport.

Mr. Kavar criticised the present quality of transport services as no longer being able to serve their purpose.

"We hope that the two studies will come up with ideas and proposals for better transportation operations and help pave the way for converting the Public Transport Company into a public shareholding company with the government holding major equity," added Mr. Kavar.

According to Abdullah Jbour, director of transport at the ministry, the consortium is comprised of German, French and Greek firms.

The actual cost of the first study, to take place over seven months, is \$440,000, and is to be financed by a Japanese government grant.

The second study, to be conducted over a period of



Minister of Transport Samir Kavar Monday signs a contract for two studies on the Kingdom's land transport situation to be conducted by a consortium of three foreign firms (Petra photo)

nine months, is estimated at \$320,000 and is to be financed by the state treasury.

Both studies will involve intensive research and surveys.

veys and will cover a wide area of the Kingdom, Mr. Jbour said.

Yemen seeks cooperation in helping to implement first 5-year plan, says visiting development minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yemeni Minister of Development and Planning Abdul Qader Bajamal arrived in Amman Monday for a week-long visit which is intended to follow up on the outcome of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker's visit to Sanaa last month.

Yemen, he explained in an arrival statement to Jordan Television, is beginning to implement its first five-year development plan, and his talks with Jordanian officials this week will focus on direct cooperation in economic, financial, monetary and planning fields.

Mr. Bajamal added that his discussions in Amman will also touch on education, health, tourism and information.

Preparation of the 1996-2000 five-year plan requires sufficient expertise which Yemen hopes to gain from Jordan, Mr. Bajamal said.

The Jordanian and Yemeni officials will this week hold several working sessions to examine the above issues and determine areas where Jordan can assist Yemen, he said.

Mr. Bajamal added that Yemen has received an invitation from Jordan to participate in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference to convene here in October, and that this will be a good chance for Yemen to examine economic integration issues.

During the visit here, he



Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf Monday meets with visiting Yemeni Minister of Development and Planning Abdul Qader Bajamal to discuss economic reforms (Petra photo)

said, he and his accompanying delegation hope also to examine Jordan's free zones policies as Sanaa plans to convert the port city of Aden into a free trade zone.

The team will also examine ways to benefit from Jordan's experiences in promoting vocational training and academic education, added the Yemeni minister.

Mr. Bajamal later met with

Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and discussed economic reforms. A statement following the meeting said discussions will continue Tuesday on Jordan's privatisation programmes and issues relating to energy and mineral resources, communications and free trade zones.

The Yemeni minister and his delegation are scheduled

to be received by Sharif Zeid during their stay in Jordan and will meet with the ministers of energy and communications, as well as senior officials of the Free Zones Corporation (FZC) and the Central Bank of Jordan.

Also Monday it was announced that a Yemeni delegation will arrive in Amman on Saturday to discuss cooperation in electric

power with the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) in training personnel, in power generation and distribution and in technical matters related to energy.

The JEA said that its teams are already supervising a major Yemeni electric power project to connect the towns of Ta'ez and Aden under a \$2.5 million contract.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Firas calls for survey of smokers

AMMAN (Petra) — The administrative committee of the Jordanian Anti-Smoking Society met Monday under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Firas Ben Raad and discussed means of activating the role of the society. Prince Firas voiced concern over the rise in the number of smokers in the Kingdom and called for conducting studies to define their number. The Prince, who was admitted as an honorary member of the society, said he was prepared to support the society's activities.

Minister meets ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb on Monday met with Brazilian Ambassador to Jordan Fernando Silva Alves and discussed with him economic relations between Jordan and Brazil and means of enhancing them. Discussion at the meeting also focused on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be held in Amman in October and the possibility of Brazil taking part in the summit. Mr. Abul Ragheb also met with Indonesian Ambassador in Amman Eddy Sumantri for talks on bilateral relations and issues related to the summit.

CORRECTION

In Sunday's edition of the Jordan Times, in a front page article entitled, "Abul Ragheb says donors may set up Middle East bank," it was erroneously reported that the proposed bank would have a \$25 billion capital instead of \$5 billion, and that Jordan would present projects worth \$13.5 billion to the October Middle East and North Africa summit instead of \$3.5 billion. We regret any inconvenience caused by the error.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FUHEIS FESTIVAL

* Seminar on the responsibility of intellectuals at the residence of the late Khalid Mnaizel in Old Fuheis at 6:30 p.m.

* Several exhibitions on Jordan's tourism sector, Karak, late Jordanian Prime Minister Wasfi Tal, Al Ra'i's 25th anniversary, Germany's struggle against fascism, Orthodox churches, abstract art, and children's art.

MEETING

* Meeting of the Amman Rotary Cosmopolitan Club at the InterContinental Hotel today at 1:30 p.m. (instead of Wednesday).

EXHIBITIONS

* Paintings by Aneta Traikova at Alia Art Gallery.

* "Exhibition of Chinese Products '95," at Al Bassam Hall, King Abdullah Gardens.

* Handicrafts and souvenirs at Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century, French Cultural Centre.

Chamber of industry directs members to adopt government directives on employment of foreign labour — advisor

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman Chamber of Industry has notified all its members to adopt immediate measures to comply with Ministry of Labour directives to regulate the legal status of all foreign workers, an advisor to the chamber said Monday.

Ali Dajani, the advisor, said the Amman Chamber of Industry, an umbrella organisation for all industrial organisations in the country, appreciated the ministry's move to open up more employment opportunities for Jordanians by eliminating foreign workers in sectors where Jordanians are available.

However, he said, many members of the chamber felt that it would be difficult to find Jordanian replacements in some of the sectors, particularly in agriculture, construction and domestic services.

"We have sent out memos to the heads of the various sub-sectors of the industrial sectors grouped under the Amman Chamber of Com-

merce advising them of the Ministry of Labour directive to ensure that all their foreign workers have work permits issued by the ministry," Mr. Dajani told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Dajani said the Amman Chamber of Industry also told its members that they should ensure that all their foreign staff work within the sectors for which the Ministry of Labour has issued their permits.

"It means that if a foreign worker is issued a work permit to work in a specific job, then he or she should work in that specific job and should not work in any other sector," Mr. Dajani said.

The Ministry of Labour's directive, issued last month, gave all employers until Oct. 25 to meet with the requirement of legalising the status of all foreign workers.

Labour inspectors will carry out random checks after the deadline expires, and any employer found to be violating the regulation would be fined.

The Ministry of Labour move to enforce the law on foreign workers in the country comes after several years of a gradual tightening of regulations in the country as unemployment among Jordanians continued to mount.

Mr. Dajani said the Amman Chamber of Industry had also sent a letter to the minister of labour expressing its appreciation of the move, "which should help resolve part of the unemployment in the country."

Official statistics have put unemployment in the country at less than 15 per cent, but unofficial estimates say the figure is closer to 20 per cent.

"We believe that the move to filter out foreigners working in jobs that could be filled by Jordanians is highly positive since it would clear the way for jobless Jordanians to find employment," said Mr. Dajani.

At the same time, he said, the Amman Chamber of Industry also felt that the presence of skilled foreign workers in some sectors was

an advantage to Jordan since they could train Jordanians for the jobs.

In the same vein, however, he said, "it will be very difficult to find Jordanians to replace foreigners, particularly nationals from some of the countries neighbouring us, working in agriculture, construction and domestic services."

The reasons for the non-availability, he added, was that "most Jordanians prefer white-collar jobs." Others might take up jobs as "drivers, guards etc.," but they "will not accept to work in the farms or in the construction sector or as domestic help simply because they think those jobs are too menial."

A key aspect of the problem, Mr. Dajani noted, was that most Jordanians have high school education which prompts them to look for office jobs or positions that they think are "respectable."

"It is one of the major hurdles facing all of us as we seek to address the unemployment in the country," he added.

Pakistan assures help for release of Kashmir hostages

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan has offered to help win the release of five Westerners held hostage by a Muslim guerrilla group in Indian-controlled Kashmir, a top Foreign Ministry official said Monday.

"We have been in touch with the embassies of the countries whose nationals are held and we have told them that we would try to do whatever we can," Najmuddin Shaikh told reporters.

The government also had "clearly" told the diplomatic missions that it had no knowledge of the Al Faran group, which is said to be holding the hostages.

"We have our own suspicions," he said, claiming it was not clear whether the group was an independent or "breakaway" group or one "controlled" by Indian intelligence agencies.

Pakistan has made repeated appeals for the release of the captives, he said.

The Al Faran group seized American Donald Hotchings

and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells on July 2. German national Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Ostro were abducted separately four days later.

The group has demanded the release of 15 colleagues from Indian prisons in exchange for the hostages, some of whom are reported to be wounded and ill.

Pakistan vows moral, political and diplomatic support for the Muslim separatist drive in the Indian-administered Kashmir, calling it a legitimate struggle in the Indian-administered Kashmir, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination.

It denies Indian charges that it arms and trains guerrilla groups involved in the campaign, which has claimed more than 12,000 lives since 1989.

Since their independence in 1947, the two countries have fought two wars over Kashmir, of which the northern third is controlled by

Pakistan.

India said Monday it will not accept any international mediation over Kashmir, but wants the United States to pressure Pakistan to stop backing Muslim separatists.

"India firmly believes that there can be no role of any sort for any third party on the Kashmir issue, and no country is pressuring India for the same," Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid said.

Mr. Khurshid told the lower house of parliament here that India was committed "to resolve bilateral differences (with Pakistan), including the Kashmir issue, peacefully."

The minister accused Pakistan of arming and training Muslim guerrillas and said New Delhi had appraised the international community of Islamabad's role.

The government would welcome the U.S. government using its influence over Pakistan to end the latter's support to (Kashmir) terror-

ists," he said. Muslim militant groups have in the past called for international mediation to resolve the row over Kashmir.

In a separate development, an Indian MP's charge that the country's Muslim community was growing at a faster rate than the Hindu population sparked an uproar in parliament Monday, forcing the speaker to adjourn the house.

Chairman Najma Heptulla ordered the upper house adjourned 30 minutes before lunch following pandemonium after MPs across the political spectrum objected to a speech by opposition deputy Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

Mr. Malhotra, a member of the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party), quoted 1991 census statistics to say that, while the Muslim population was on the rise, the Hindu growth rate was falling.

Japan sect linked to cyanide attacks

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police Monday linked a doomsday cult already charged with a nerve gas attack on the Tokyo subway system with another series of mystery attacks involving cyanide gas, media reports said.

At the same time Shoko Asahara, leader of Aum Shinri Kyo (Supreme Truth Sect), was formally indicted on a new charge involving nerve gas mass-murder in a mountain resort last year.

In the cyanide incidents, cyanide soda used in crude gas bombs planted in Tokyo stations in May and July matched samples found at facilities owned by the cult, Kyodo News Agency reported.

Although the sect was suspected of involvement in the cyanide attacks, it is the first time police have been reported to have found evidence to formally link Aum to these attacks.

The March 20 nerve gas attacks killed 11 people and sickened another 5,500.

But the cyanide bombs were discovered before they could release fumes that could have killed thousands of people.

The sect has denied any connection with the case and Tokyo police declined to comment. Kyodo's story apparently came from exclusive briefings by police to domestic news organisations.

The first cyanide attack was on May 5 at Shinjuku Station, the capital's busiest. A device said to be capable of killing thousands was planted near a toilet, but station staff found it in time and nobody was hurt.

On July 4, four people were slightly injured on an evening which saw four attempts to release poison gas on Tokyo railways. Two of the cases were failed attempts to release cyanide gas, and the devices closely resembled the one planted on May 5.

Both the May and the July attempts used sodium cyanide and sulphuric acid in separate plastic bags, with timers set to make them react and give off lethal cyanide gas.

Police at the time suspected Aum staged the cyanide attacks as the net closed in on cult leaders for their involvement in the nerve gas incident.

In each case, the cyanide soda was in powdered form with the same grains and the same concentration of impurities, Kyodo quoted police as saying.

Police have now found that the soda matches samples found at a cult complex in Kamikuchiki near Mount Fuji, it said.

Also Monday Asahara and 11 followers were indicted on murder charges for a separate sarin attack in June last year.

Asahara is accused of instructing senior Aum members to spray sarin from a truck in an attempt to kill a judge due to rule on a property lawsuit involving the Aum in the resort town of Matsumoto in the mountains of central Japan.

Yeltsin back at work after illness

MOSCOW (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin returned to the Kremlin Monday after recovering from a mild heart attack and plunged straight back into affairs of state by offering to host talks on ending the conflict in Croatia.

"You see, today is the first day I am back at work. Everything is going normally," ITAR-TASS news agency quoted a smiling Yeltsin as telling tourists inside the Kremlin grounds before he strode purposefully towards his office.

In a clear bid to show the world he had recovered from his ailment, Mr. Yeltsin told Russian reporters he was trying to arrange talks in Moscow between the leaders of Serbia and Croatia.

"We want to agree on how to sign a document on halting military actions," Interfax News Agency quoted him as saying.

The 64-year-old Russian leader said force might eventually have to be used to end the Yugoslav conflict if other means failed. He also touched on fighting in rebel Chechnya and next December's election to the State Duma lower house of parliament.

"The president is in good health and he is going to get down to routine affairs," a presidential spokesman said by telephone.

Mr. Yeltsin was earlier whisked to the Kremlin from the Barvikha Sanatorium outside Moscow where he spent the last two weeks recovering from a minor heart attack suffered on July 10. He spent the first two weeks in hospital.

Kremlin aides told the world that Mr. Yeltsin, who has a history of heart problems, was running the country normally from the hospital and sanatorium despite his absence.

The president told journalists Monday he had met a string of important visitors during his month away from the Kremlin and had also talked by telephone with world leaders such as German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Christopher leaves Hanoi after establishing ties

HANOI (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher left Hanoi Monday after a weekend visit during which he established diplomatic ties and opened the first American embassy in the Vietnamese capital.

After a farewell ceremony with his counterpart Nguyen Manh Cam, Mr. Christopher left Hanoi to fly back to the United States.

Mr. Cam told journalists after the farewell that the two countries would begin efforts to establish a framework for economic relations and that Vietnam would keep up its efforts to find the remains of missing U.S. soldiers.

Asked about a speech Sunday by Mr. Christopher in which he called on Vietnam to speed up its economic reforms and establish the rule of the law, Mr. Cam said Vietnam was "making a big effort" to integrate its economy with the rest of the world.

He did not answer questions about the issues of human rights and democracy raised by Mr. Christopher in his speech to students at the Institute for International Relations.

Mr. Cam said only that Vietnam had enshrined press freedoms in its constitution but that these were sometimes abused as the country moves from a command economy to a market system.

He said Vietnam would do everything it could to help U.S. investment here and urged Washington to facilitate the development of economic links by granting most favoured nations (MFN) status.

U.S. officials said during the visit that the first step would be a trade agreement and that MFN could be some time coming because it needed approval from Congress, where hostility towards Vietnam remains an important issue.



U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher (centre) walks with Americans and Vietnamese inside the Temple of Literature in Hanoi. Founded in 13th century, the temple was the first University in Vietnam. Mr. Christopher was on a two-day official visit to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam (AFP photo)

Gallery evacuated as sculpture leaks gas

LONDON (AFP) — The Tate Gallery was evacuated Sunday after a hazardous gas leaked from a sculpture exhibit designed to symbolise "the dangers of life." Staff spotted the escaping iodine from the exhibit — the Rites of Passage by the late Pakistani artist Hamid Butt — as crowds packed the gallery in London. Firefighters were called and the gallery was shut for 45 minutes. Staff put into action an emergency procedure specially designed to cope with a leak from the exhibit. The lit abstract glass construction, in the shape of a ladder, formed part of the gallery's summer exhibition of contemporary artists. The exhibit contained a hazardous gas because it was designed to symbolise what Butt called "the dangers of life." Museum officials said the leaking part was removed and was to be examined by conservation staff. It is not known what caused the leak. Butt died last year at the age of 32. Many of his works contained toxic chemicals.

Rolling Stones light up Prague Castle

PRAGUE (R) — A new lighting system for Prague Castle, financed by the Rolling Stones, was switched on by Czech President Vaclav Havel. The venerable rock band — which played for Havel and more than 120,000 at Prague's Strahov Stadium Saturday night — paid \$32,000 for an overhaul of the lighting in four of the castle's ornate grand halls. The president's office said. The Stones sent the director and lighting designer from their record breaking "Voodoo Lounge" tour to the six-centuries-old castle to steer the three-week project. The result provided a somewhat more dignified spectacle than the raucous light show in the mythical "Voodoland" on stage. Mick Jagger, Keith Richards, Charlie Watts and Ron Wood presented Mr. Havel with a remote control to operate the chandeliers and spotlights, now strategically casting their beams on baroque statues and tapestries. Mr. Havel, the dissident playwright who helped lead the 1989 bloodless "Velvet Revolution" over communism, is an unabashed rock enthusiast who has struck up a friendship with the Stones since they played Prague in 1990.

See Venice and die — or just buy the postcard

VENICE, Italy (R) — A Venice publisher who printed a romantic postcard of the city's moonlit lagoon with an island church in the background and the words "only you are missing" may have made a macabre pun. Italian newspapers gleefully pointed out Sunday that the romantic nocturnal view was of San Michele in Isola — Venice's island cemetery where the Russian composer Igor Stravinsky, American poet Ezra Pound and dancer Diaghilev are buried.

Waterworld ranks 1st at the box office

LOS ANGELES, California (AFP) — Waterworld, the most expensive movie ever made, ranked first at the box office in the United States for the second consecutive week, according to Hollywood figures released Sunday. Actor Kevin Costner's aqua saga, in which he portrays a gilled loner who helps a woman and child find land in a world covered by water, was produced at a cost of \$175 million. Critics snubbed the film and pointed to its price tag as yet another example of Hollywood megalomania. While Waterworld earned \$12.8 million at the box office over the weekend, a studio executive said it was too soon to tell whether the movie would turn a profit. "Everybody had pretty much written off the movie before it was completed," said Alan Sutton, vice president for national publicity at Universal Studios. "This was very solid business and Waterworld will rank among the top grossing pictures domestically and should have a really good overseas release," he said. Costner directed and starred in the movie filmed off the coast of Hawaii. Production was plagued by delays due to bad weather and technical difficulties linked to the challenge of filming an entire movie on floating plateaus.

Zaire probes Italian tourist murders

KINSHASA (R) — Zaire's justice minister has ordered the arrest of anyone suspected of involvement in the deaths of six Italian tourists apparently murdered by bandits on their way to visit a game park.

Justice Minister Nsinga Ujuzi told Reuters late Sunday: "The public prosecutor told me there are suspects, and I told him to arrest any suspects for the investigation."

The six tourists, including two children aged five and 11, were killed in eastern Zaire Sunday.

Nsinga said the killings took place at Maiomoto, a hot spring near Virunga National Park, adding: "These were tourists who were going towards the park."

"I told the public prosecutor to open an inquiry, and he left immediately for the site."

A spokesman at the Italian Foreign Ministry in Rome said he had no details about how the Italians died but confirmed four adults and two children aged five and 11 had been found dead.

The Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported that two of the adults worked for the

charity Guisto Mondo (Just World).

Domenico Colombo, president of the non-governmental agency, told Italian RAI television the dead were four men and two children. The wife of one of the dead men, and mother of the two children, was injured and under shock.

"Since it was a Sunday they decided to leave their operational headquarters and visit the Virunga Park which is an animal reserve. After a few kilometres they were blocked by an armed band," Mr. Colombo said from Lecco, near Milan.

"The band first robbed them and then fired at the group itself, killing one of our volunteers, architect Adolfo Castiglione, and his two children Roberto and Samuele."

He named the other dead as land surveyor Michelangelo Lambertini, construction foreman Tarcisio Riva and electrician Luigi Cazzaniga.

Mr. Colombo said the Italians had been working on aid projects to help Rwandan refugees and locals in eastern Zaire.

Local people in the Virunga Park area, about 1,600 kilometres from the capital

Kinshasa, said they suspected the Italians were killed by poachers or robbers.

Virunga is Zaire's game park and home to one of the rare surviving groups of mountain gorillas and other wildlife.

The park has been badly hit by poaching, particularly with the influx of more than one million refugees into the area from civil war last year in neighbouring Rwanda.

Many of the refugees were soldiers in the Rwandan army who fled after losing a civil war to guerrillas. Many of the soldiers took their weapons with them into Zaire.

Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro Monday condemned the killing of the six Italians.

"This horrendous crime is all the more vile and execrable in that it has wiped out young and innocent lives," Mr. Scalfaro said in a message of condolence to the agency's president, Mr. Colombo.

"It has hit fellow Italians who were helping to improve conditions for the local population for humanitarian reasons alone," Mr. Scalfaro said.

Ousted Zaire premier wants old job back

KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) — Zaire's last populist prime minister demanded his old job back Sunday, before a cheering crowd of thousands who vowed to restore him to power.

Political tension has risen since July 10, when the interim parliament announced that the country's first general elections in a decade were to be postponed for another two years — until July 1997. The announcement sparked a series of protests.

Etienne Tshisekedi, sacked by President Mobutu Sese Seko last year, called on his supporters at a rowdy but peaceful rally in downtown Kinshasa Sunday to ignore the laws passed by the latest set of lawmakers.

"One doesn't negotiate the law. The law is the will of the people," Mr. Tshisekedi said in Lingala, one of the central African country's main dialects. "Voilà, the secret of development: the will of the people."

The heavy-set, 62-year-old law professor said that of all those going through the revolving door of the prime minister's office in the last five years, he was the only one legally elected by parliament. He called on members of his Union for Democracy and Social Progress (UDPS), the largest mainstream opposition group in the country of 42 million people, to ignore the laws of sitting Prime Minister Leon Kengo Wa Dondo.

"The ordinances of Kengo are nothing more than useless pieces of paper," he said to the jubilant ululations of about 5,000 backers.

He asked them to stage sit-ins before Western embassies to protest their government's backing of Mr. Kengo and to prepare for a large protest march in one of his popular "dead city" protests in which everyone stays home from work.

The reform-minded Kengo has become popular for his

decrees aimed at establishing some order in the otherwise lawless land of diamonds, copper and chaos. The United States announced in June that it would send a new ambassador to Zaire for the first time in more than two years as a show of support for Mr. Kengo.

That makes Mr. Mobutu mad and could play to Mr. Tshisekedi's favour.

"Mobutu wants to give power back to Tshisekedi again because he has discovered that Kengo is more powerful than him," said Willy Mishiki Buhini, a government vice minister and co-founder of the UDPS who represents the younger members who have thrown their support behind Mr. Kengo.

Mr. Tshisekedi's supporters say Sunday's rally was relatively small because many were too afraid to attend. 10 people were killed during a demonstration by a different opposition group July 28.

Mexico opposition wins Baja state governorship

MEXICALI, Mexico (R) — Mexico's conservative opposition inflicted a stinging defeat on the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) Sunday, winning the governorship of the northern state of Baja California for the second time in six years.

Officials of the National Action Party (PAN) claimed victory for their candidate Hector Teran with more than 55 per cent of the vote — a far higher margin than political analysts had predicted in what they had seen as a tight race.

The PRI, without giving figures, admitted defeat with a tight-lipped statement early Monday, acknowledging that "the tendency does not favour our party's candidate."

While the PRI still domin-

ates national politics, and has never lost the presidency of Mexico, it has now ceded four of Mexico's 31 state governorships to the PAN. Baja California was the first state it has lost twice.

Official results were not immediately available from the Baja California electoral authorities early Monday. But the PRI statement left no doubt it had resigned itself to defeat.

PAN officials, meanwhile, were jubilant. "National Action and its candidate for the governorship Hector Teran have triumphed today," state PAN leader Mario Coral Caligaris earlier told a news conference.

The result showed that the PRI's liability of a deep economic recession hurt more than voters' weariness with

PAN Governor Ernesto Ruffo, who won the state in 1989 but has seen support slip during his six-year rule.

When Mr. Ruffo won the statehouse in 1989, it was the first time in six decades of rule that the PRI had been forced out of major office in Mexico.

Officials said voting Sunday was largely free of the irregularities that have traditionally marred Mexican ballots in the past.

Voters, lining up earlier Sunday in the dusty streets in temperatures of up to 48 degrees Celsius (118 degrees Fahrenheit) to cast their ballots, fumed over the failure of both main parties to offer convincing policies. They suggested neither one was particularly popular.

The PAN had been on the

defensive after losing a string of mayors' offices to the PRI in municipal polls last month in the northern state of Chihuahua, which it also governs.

The PRI, too, has been on a losing streak. President Ernesto Zedillo grew up in Mexicali, but his fumbled devaluation of the peso in December cost his party two landslide defeats to the PAN in gubernatorial races earlier this year.

In other more minor elections Sunday, the PRI admitted that the PAN was doing well in municipal and local legislative elections in the central state of Aguascalientes, but said the PRI had a clear advantage in other local voting in the states of Zacatecas, Oaxaca and Veracruz.

UDON (AFP) — A gallery was evacuated after a hazardous explosion designed to symbolise the dangers of life. The exhibit — the artist's late work — was packed in the gallery. Firefighters were on the scene for 45 minutes. Smoke filled the gallery. The artist's late work was a sculpture of a man in a suit, holding a gun. The artist, a 32-year-old, died in the explosion. The gallery was a temporary exhibition space. The artist's work was a sculpture of a man in a suit, holding a gun. The artist, a 32-year-old, died in the explosion. The gallery was a temporary exhibition space.

World News



Chechen fighters chant slogans and display their guns as they drive along the streets of the Chechen capital Grozny. A dispute over the number of prisoners held by each side has delayed the implementation of a military accord signed last month, and motivated rebel Chechen fighters to attack a Russian roadblock near the Chechen town of Gudermes. No casualties were reported following the attack (AFP photo)

Yeltsin wants Chechnya polls delayed to 1996

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he wanted planned elections in Chechnya postponed from autumn until early 1996, the Interfax News Agency reported Monday.

"First there has to be disarmament (of Chechen independence fighters). As long as there are illegal armed groups there cannot be elections," Mr. Yeltsin told journalists at a Kremlin briefing.

He was speaking on his return to Moscow after a month away following heart problems which surfaced July 10 and kept him in hospital for several weeks.

"Elections will be held in Chechnya, perhaps not this year, but in the first half of next year," he added, saying no date had been officially set yet in any case.

A provisional date of Nov. 5 was put forward by members of the Russian delegation during peace talks with Chechen negotiators which led to a military accord and ceasefire late last month.

The question of Chechnya's political status, either as an independent state or part of the Russian Federation, remained unclear after the talks, however.

Chechnya had been riven by conflict, in which 15,000 to 30,000 people died, according to various estimates, since 1994.

Russian troops marched into the republic on Dec. 11 to quell a three-year-old independence drive.

Mr. Yeltsin refused to confirm Oleg Lobov, secretary to the Russian Security Council, as his representative in Chechnya, but hinted he might sign a decree confirming the nomination soon.

Meanwhile he promised elections to the Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, would go ahead as planned on Dec. 17.

Meanwhile several overnight skirmishes in Chechnya left a Russian soldier and a Chechen militant dead, the Russian forces cited by the Interfax News Agency said Monday.

Two Russians were also wounded in the incidents, which were not specified.

The Russian side said it had only responded to Chechen provocations.

A peace plan calling for a withdrawal of most Russian forces from the breakaway republic in exchange for Chechen disarmament was signed on July 30. The accord put an end to a six-month war that began when Russian troops marched into the Caucasus republic in December to quell a three-year secessionist drive.

Russian officers and men in western Chechnya are stuck in a curious limbo, not sure whether they are about to go home or start fighting separatist rebels once again.

The two warring sides are more or less sticking to the terms of a military agreement signed last week to stop the eight-month-old conflict and slowly disengage their forces.

Suicide bomber kills 21 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A suicide bomber pushing a cart of coconuts set off explosives killing 21 people in what was widely seen as Tamil Tiger separatists' answer to Sri Lanka's plans for devolution.

The blast was triggered opposite the city landmark Independence Memorial Hall and wounded about 40, police and witnesses said.

The bomber was asked for his identification papers outside the offices of the chief minister of the Western Provincial Council, witnesses said.

It was then that the bomb went off, killing those around him lining up to enter the building, witnesses said.

Two hours after the blast, 14 bodies lay around the entrance to the building in the fashionable Cinnamon Gardens embassy district, witnesses said. Its windows were shattered by the force of the explosion.

"It's very significant the LTTE hit the Provincial Council building," said Arjuna Mahendran, senior regional economist for Crosby Securities. "It's a symbolic sort of act, attacking the whole concept of devolution."

President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga Thursday announced a devolution package for the country's minority Tamils in a bid to bring a political solution to a war against the LTTE which has raged since 1983.

The plan proposes changing the provinces to regions with wide-ranging devolved powers. The western province is the most powerful.

"The whole house reverberated," said a resident living about a kilometre from the blast scene, adding that he and his family had grown used to the experience.

In 1991, a huge bomb exploded at the headquarters of Armed Forces Joint Operations Command in the same district, killing 22 people and causing extensive damage.

The Memorial Hall and surrounding grassland is popular with tourists, young lovers and cricketers.

Earlier reports said two bombs had exploded, one inside the building and one outside.

A shadowy Tamil militant group which claimed responsibility for an abortive car bomb at Colombo Airport in June threatened last week to kill tourists and foreign investors in Sri Lanka.

The group, Eelam Force, believed to be a front for the LTTE, said it "won't be ready to show any mercy" unless the armed forces stopped "killing Tamils" in the north.

The group, which denounced a current military offensive in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, threatened to set off "massive bombs" in Colombo last month unless a commission was set up to investigate the killing of Tamils in the east.

The military said Saturday it took the group seriously. "They have proved they have explosives and can do something in Colombo," a spokesman said.

Political analyst Ram Manikkalingam said the attack seemed to be the LTTE's answer to devolution. "It seems they are opting for more of the same — hit-and-run guerrilla attacks and bomb blasts," he said.

Sinhala-language newspapers Monday said the LTTE, which has not claimed responsibility for the blast, were planning to announce a separate state Tuesday.

Later Monday, the suicide attacker was identified as a Tamil vendor of Indian origin, police sources said.

The man pushed a cart of coconuts containing the bomb, which caused heavy damage to the building housing the provincial chief minister's office, police Deputy Inspector-General H.M. Kotakadeniya said.

"We know his identity. ... We arrested one of his associates on suspicion yesterday," Mr. Kotakadeniya said, without giving further details of the arrest.

The suicide bomber had been detained and photographed recently by the police Crime Detective Branch and released, said police sources who did not provide additional details of the case.

Tamils of Indian origin were brought into the country as indentured labour by British colonial rulers during the 19th century. Nearly half a million of Indian Tamils have been given Sri Lankan citizenship as part of a bilateral agreement with India in the mid-1980s.

Police say the devastating attack was carried out by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The suicide bomb blast left a nightmare landscape of twisted bodies scattered across a glass and wreckage-strewn area.

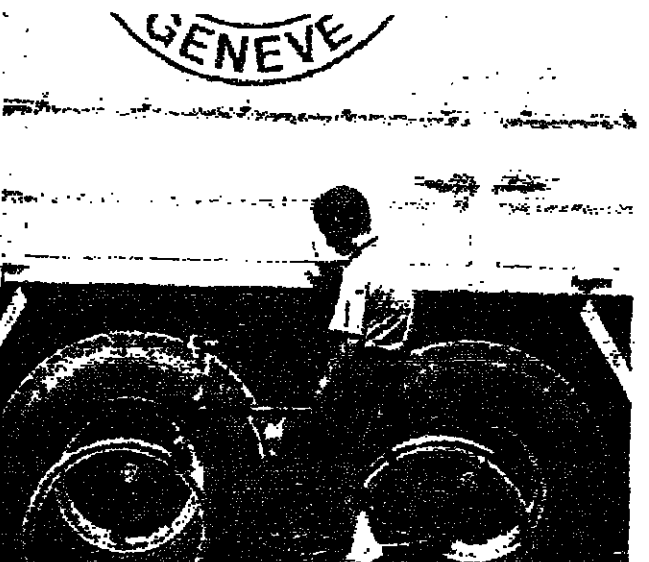
"The chief minister and all of us were getting ready for a meeting when the whole building shook like an earthquake," said Vidana Pathirana, assistant director of the office of Minister Susil Premajayanth. "All of us were stunned for a few seconds before we realised it was a bomb."

None of the officials at the meeting were hurt, Pathirana said, but "there were many wounded inside the office. Many of them were people who had come to seek redress." Dozens were sent to hospital.

Tamil Tigers fighting for a homeland in the north and east of Sri Lanka will announce a separate state Tuesday, the independent Lankadeepa newspaper reported.

Quoting northern political sources, it said Monday the state would combine the northern Jaffna peninsula, where the LTTE already control, and parts of the east.

Residents of the area, which the paper said would be part of the Tamil state to be declared, said there was a lot of unusual LTTE movement. Military sources said Tigers attacked an army patrol in the eastern town of Mutur Monday, killing two soldiers.



A Chechen boy leans against an International Red Cross truck, containing humanitarian aid, while his mother waits in line for some food in Grozny. The situation in the Chechen capital is quiet after a fragile ceasefire has been in effect since June 18, but a dispute over the number of prisoners held by each side has delayed implementation of a military accord signed last month (AFP photo)

But among those manning a checkpoint on the outskirts of Achkhoy-Martan, a town some 45 kilometres west of the capital Grozny, mistrust of the enemy is still deep.

"To be honest, we are afraid of the rebels. They are so strong and well-armed. Every Chechen fighter can hold an automatic rifle in one hand and shoot perfectly," said Vadim, a 19-year-old soldier.

"We are especially afraid during the night. The territory around this position is full of mines. At night, we shoot at every suspicious noise."

Just seven kilometres away to the south Vadim and his comrades can see the town of Bamut, one of the rebels' main strongholds, where many Kremlin soldiers have lost their lives.

"I'm happy military activities have been halted but I am afraid some sort of fighting will go on for another three years at least. I do not believe all the Chechens will give up their arms," said Roman, a 19-year-old sergeant.

"I still don't know what we were fighting here for. It's better to ask the generalise. I don't know why I have lost many good friends," he said.

"I definitely want to go home but it would not be a good idea to withdraw all our troops because within a few months we will be forced to go to war again."

Roman, Vadim and the others spend their daylight hours cleaning their guns, lounging by the sides of their dusty armoured vehicles and waiting for the next set of orders.

Kashmiri group threatens to kill Hindu leader

SRINAGAR, India (R) — A Muslim separatist group in Kashmir threatened Monday to kill Indian radical Hindu leader Bal Thackeray.

The Lashkar-i-Taiba group issued a statement in Srinagar, summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, saying they were determined to retaliate against Mr. Thackeray, who last month threatened Muslim pilgrims.

Mr. Thackeray, leader of the militant Hindu Shiv Sena party in the western state of Maharashtra, threatened retaliation against Muslim haj pilgrims if Hindus embarking on a pilgrimage in Kashmir were attacked.

The Harkat-ul-Ansar separatist group has threatened Hindu pilgrims climbing this week to Amarnath Cave in Kashmir and took responsibility for two recent bomb blasts which killed 18 people in Jammu, winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

threatened the followers of one God to stop their very important pilgrimage to Mecca," said the Lashkar-i-Taiba statement, written in Urdu.

"We accept this challenge and we resolve to finish this undesirable fellow off before the month of Hajj," it said, referring to the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca.

"What greater challenge could there be for Muslims than that the leader of these infidels, Bal Thackeray, has threatened Muslim pilgrims."

Scientist calls U.N. climate target unattainable

HELSINKI (R) — Controlling population growth in the next few decades and lowering carbon dioxide emissions in line with United Nations targets will be impossible, a Finnish expert said Monday.

"The forces are too powerful," Pekka Kauppi of the Finnish State Forest Research Institute (METLA) said at an international forestry research conference in the central town of Tampere.

It would be "like trying to prevent an earthquake," he added in a statement.

Finnish Prime Minister Paavo Lipponen responded with a statement saying "a reassessment of international commitments may be necessary."

Mr. Kauppi, investigating climate change as part of a study of the relationship between carbon dioxide (CO2) and forecasts, cited forecasts that the world population will grow to some 10 billion by 2025, mainly in Asia and Africa.

Combined with rising levels of CO2 emissions per person in densely-populated China and India, and only a small decline in recent emissions per person in the United States, he said this meant "the U.N. climate convention as adopted in the Rio Conference in 1992... is bound to be unattainable."

The convention committed the rich nations to cut CO2 emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000, but most industrial countries are not expected to meet this target.

A U.N. climate conference in Berlin in April this year concluded that the Rio pledges were not enough to prevent dangerous man-made climate change.

Mr. Kauppi said: "It is not possible to combine economic development with a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions in countries like China and India in the next 30 years."

What role now for the U.N. in Croatia?

ZAGREB (AFP) — The role of the United Nations in Croatia is in doubt after Zagreb's victory over the Serbs, its mandate to separate them reconcile the different communities overtaken by events following its failure to produce political progress.

"Our mandate is out-dated and is going to have to be re-written because the situation has changed completely. It is clear that we are going to have to re-evaluate our presence here and our mission... if we have one," a U.N. official said Sunday.

In three days, the Croatian army has retaken almost all the towns and strategically important routes in the southern Krajina region and taken into the north, linking up with the Bosnian army west of the enclave of Bihać.

After four years of war, "the Croatians have rewritten the map, in many ways," the official said.

The U.N. mission arrived in Croatia in 1992 with some 12,000 of whom 10,000 were deployed in territory then under the control of the separatist Serbs. The troops came from 12 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Jordan, Kenya, Nepal, Poland, Russia, Slovakia and Ukraine.

The U.N. forces took up positions in buffer zones between the warring parties — positions which no longer exist. They were also charged with monitoring the international border, something the Croatians will now be doing for themselves along many kilometres of the Bosnian border.

The mission was also ordered to organise a demilitarisation of the country — a task it never accomplished.

The new situation sees the Croatians in control of most of the important sites in the Krajina with only the eastern Slavonia region, backing onto Serbia itself, fully in



Croatian Serb refugees from the Krajina region sit on the back of a truck waiting for food and aid. The situation in the eastern Bosnian town of Bjeljina, International relief agencies braced for a massive exodus of Serb refugees fleeing the Croatian offensive in breakaway Krajina and began organising food airlifts to avoid a humanitarian disaster (AFP photo)

China police break up anti-Japan news conference

BEIJING (R) — Chinese police Monday stormed and broke up a news conference where an elderly "comfort woman" wept as she related her ordeal as a sex slave for Japanese soldiers in World War II.

The news conference was called hours after lawyers for the woman and nine others filed the first lawsuit in Tokyo by Chinese war victims demanding compensation of 20 million yen (\$220,000) each for injuries suffered at the hands of Japanese soldiers during the invasion from 1937 to 1945.

China dropped all official demands for compensation when it established diplomatic relations with Japan in 1972, but has said it would not stand in the way of private citizens seeking redress for war injuries.

Chinese public security officers burst into the third-floor room of the Hepingli Hotel in central Beijing, saying the news conference was illegal because government authorities had not given permission.

They ordered foreign television crews and photographers to hand over videotape and film showing a sobbing Wang Aihua, 67, a peasant from northern Shanxi province, as she described her life as a sex slave for Japanese soldiers during World War II.

She told reporters how she ran away three times from Japanese soldiers in Yu county in Shanxi province but was caught and returned.

An organiser of the news conference said soldiers frequently beat her because she refused to obey them. A soldier once pulled her earring so hard that he ripped off part of her ear lobe, the organiser said.

Mr. Wang wept as she recalled other Japanese war atrocities she witnessed. "They used bayonets to kill babies and threw them into dried up wells," she said.

Among the other nine people who filed the lawsuit were Liu Lianren, who was found in 1958 after hiding in the mountains in Hokkaido, Japan, for 13 years and survived eating tree bark, and the daughter of Wang Guilan, used as a guinea pig in Japan's germ warfare experiments.

The 10 had initially planned to leave from Japan Sunday but did not manage to obtain visas. Chinese officials have confiscated the passport of the group's leader, Tong Zeng.

Earlier, police cut off electricity to the hotel room in an apparent attempt to disrupt the news conference.

A Japanese television reporter scuffled with an officer who tried to seize his camera. The policeman threatened to charge the reporter with obstruction of justice.

It was not immediately known whether organisers of the news conference or any of the war victims were detained.

"I'm really worried for them," a spokesman for the group said in a telephone interview. "It was chaotic and some of them left unnoticed. I'm still waiting for them to contact me."

"But we will continue our work because there is nothing wrong with it. It stands for justice," he said.

Historians say an estimated 200,000 women, mostly Koreans but also including women from China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Netherlands and the Philippines, were abducted by the Japanese army and forced to work as sex slaves.

Japan's Takemura, Kono to remain in cabinet

TOKYO (R) — Japan's finance and foreign ministers said Monday they would keep their posts in a cabinet reshuffle which Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama plans to announce Tuesday.

The announcement by the two key ministers, both leaders of parties in Mr. Murayama's coalition, ended rumours about the scale of the cabinet reshuffle and gave the prime minister a victory in a battle to keep his government intact.

Speaking after meeting with Mr. Murayama to discuss a cabinet reshuffle, Foreign Minister Yohei Kono and Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura told reporters there would be changes, but not involving them.

"The prime minister told me the priority for the next cabinet will be to work for economic recovery," Mr. Takemura said.

Deputy Prime Minister Kono is president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which dominates the three-party coalition government formed 14 months ago by Mr. Murayama, leader of the Socialists, Mr. Takemura is chief of the smallest partner, the Sakigake Party.

Mr. Murayama has been under pressure to put the coalition back on its feet after all three parties lost badly in last month's upper house elections, a result regarded as a public vote of no-confidence.

The prime minister said the cabinet changes, expected to be only a minor reshuffle, would be revealed late Tuesday.

The only "wild card" left

was the future of Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who plans to challenge Mr. Kono for the leadership of the LDP next month.

Mr. Hashimoto, backed by the LDP right, is riding high after earlier this year negotiating Japan out of a bruising trade war with the United States over car imports.

Asked if Mr. Hashimoto would retain his post in a reshuffled cabinet, Mr. Takemura told reporters: "It has not yet been decided."

Political analysts said Mr. Kono's decision to remain in the cabinet meant Mr. Hashimoto would also probably stay.

When Mr. Murayama decided on the reshuffle last Friday, the plan got bogged down by internal feuding between the three coalition parties.

Both Mr. Kono and Mr. Takemura wanted to leave their busy posts to concentrate on restoring their parties' fortunes and their own personal reputation as political leaders.

Hanging over all the parties is the likelihood that because of the fragile unity of the coalition, a general election may have to be called before one is due in mid-1997.

Mr. Takemura has been criticised for compromising his party's reformist stance through its membership of the LDP-dominated coalition, while Mr. Kono has run into trouble from his party's conservative right wing for not being tough enough on trade and foreign policy issues.

The tribe that found a fortune

In commuter-belt Connecticut, native Americans are making a comeback from near extinction and poverty — all because of their casino
Ian Katz reports

CHARLES ROGERS leans back in his executive chair and recalls his "tragically poor" upbringing. How he was picked on at Gallop Hill Elementary because he only had two sets of clothes. How he quit school in eleventh grade so he could work at Mr. Pizza and as a construction labourer. Mr. Rogers is 27, but now, only by sleeping fewer than four hours a night can he balance running his three companies with his duties as director of construction and water distribution for the Mashantucket Pequot tribe. His salary from the tribe is "more than most people earn in a couple of years" but he doesn't have time to spend it.

When a week or two ago he had a local contractor to finalise details for a \$12.5 million water purification plant, the contractor was the man for whom he used to labour. "It is a sweet reversal," Mr. Rogers admits. He has an infectious enthusiasm but his rise was not achieved without a little help: from the Foxwoods Casino, a blue plastic and glass confederation plunked in drab eastern Connecticut.

It was built with borrowed Malaysian money by the Mashantucket Pequot tribe under a federal law which allows gaming on native American reservations. (It is banned everywhere else except Nevada, Atlantic City and on riverboats). The law was meant to help Indians become economically independent but few tribes have won big. Foxwoods is perfectly located in the heavily populated north-east (20 million people live within 100 miles), and pulled in the punters from day one. With its two hotels, it makes \$2 billion a year; the most profitable casino in America, perhaps the world. In three years it has transformed the 322 Mashantucket Pequots from some of the poorest people in America to some of the richest.

Their leader Richard

"Skip" Hayward jets into Washington for private White House dinners and cruises with the Sultan of Brunei. Mr. Hayward's political clout extends far beyond those who chose him as chairman of the tribal council; last year the tribe gave \$500,000 to the Democratic Party, tossing the Republicans \$50,000 for good measure.

In eastern Connecticut, ravaged by defence cuts, the Pequots have all but taken control of the economy. The tribe tops up state coffers by \$100 million every year and directly employs 10,000 men and women, many of whom once built nuclear submarines in nearby shipyards. Everyone with something to sell wants to know a Mashantucket Pequot. Joey Carter, who oversees his own \$4 million rock-crushing business when not serving as the tribe's front man, is in constant demand. Eight years ago, he was chopping trees for \$5 an hour and living in a two-bedroom apartment with seven other people.

What makes this story remarkable is that the Mashantucket Pequots were once considered extinct. The native Americans who inhabited the eastern seaboard were the first to be driven off their land by European settlers, and the first to catch their diseases. What bugs and main force did not achieve, three-and-a-half centuries of interbreeding did. A decade ago, the federal government did not acknowledge a single Indian tribe in the six New England states.

The Pequots, who once controlled half of what is now Connecticut, seemed consigned to the history books. They fought and lost the Pequot War of 1637, and were all but wiped out when English troops torched their homes by the Mystic River in one of the bloodiest massacres of the nation's early history. A treaty signed the following year even forbade the few survivors



Staff wear "authentic" Mashantucket Pequot tribal dress to serve punters at the slot machines.

from calling themselves Pequots.

But a small group clung for three centuries to two reservations near the town of Ledyard. By the mid-18th century the group on the Mashantucket reservation had dwindled to 150; a few more families occupied the "Eastern" reservation a mile away. For most of the 20th century the Mashantucket population has been under 100.

All of which is recorded in a small museum in Foxwoods which lures a surprising number of punters from the slot machines upstairs. Money buys the ability to write history, and the Mashantucket Pequots are investing heavily. Eight years ago the proceeds of their growing bingo business funded an historical conference. With the casino they have raised their sights: work on a \$140 million museum is under way.

Few conversations on the reservation go on for long without a reference to the 1637 "war of genocide," memories of more recent injustices are always forthcoming. Chris Pearson, 35, training to be a tribe's spokesman, slams a fist on his steering wheel as he recalls the only time his

grandmother received a Christmas present from the family whose house she cleaned. "She was so touched and she opened it up and it was a used maid's uniform. It hadn't even been cleaned."

Laura Porter, now 62, moved to the reservation a few years ago from Atlantic City, where she had struggled to bring up four children alone. Now one of her children runs the post office and the other three are being supported while they study. Instead of being treated as irrelevant, Ms. Porter is revered as a member of the tribe's committee of elders and will shortly move into a luxurious ranch-style house built for her.

Ever since the money began flowing in, the tribe has been building luxury homes to accommodate the returning Pequots and snapping up land around the reservation at inflated prices. Anyone who can prove that they are a Mashantucket Pequot — a blood descendant of one of the nine alive in 1900 — is entitled to a highly paid job and home with an interest-free mortgage, medical and educational bills. As part of its attempt to reestablish

itself as a "nation," the tribe has also invested in luxurious community and sports centres. Work is well under way on a new centre for the reservation's "emergency services," it already has its own police force.

So anyone who can has rediscovered their tribal roots. Joyce Walker, 48, moved from Indiana after her husband's car repair business ran into trouble. Now she is training to run the Pequot's retail operation and recently fulfilled a long-time dream by buying her husband a diamond ring to replace the heirloom he had given her for their engagement.

She bought herself a white Cadillac too, and a diamond ring for all but two of her fingers. "When I lived in Indiana I was a school bus driver. I don't have to worry about someone catching up with me and demanding payments like I used to."

The tribe also hears from plenty of wannabe Pequots who would have trouble spelling the name let alone dating the Pequot War. "We even have people ringing up to ask if they have a baby on the reserva-

tion, will it be a Pequot," says Mr. Pearson.

Pequot identity is confused by the generations of interbreeding with other ethnic groups which mean that few tribal members look the way you expect them to, or even much like each other. Mr. Pearson had a Yorkshire-born father and another infusion of English blood from his maternal grandfather. Around a quarter of Mashantucket Pequots are dark-skinned, the product of marriages into the black community which for years created a bitter racial divide within the tribe.

The tribe has spent millions exhuming its largely lost culture. Wayne Reels, the director of cultural programmes, encourages the teaching of the Pequot language through songs but admits it is difficult to establish exactly what the language is because no one has spoken it for years.

The Pequots have discovered that money brings its own problems. At the casino, Bruce Kirchner, the highest-ranking tribal member in a corporate structure dominated by outsiders, struggles to balance the demands of ambi-

tious but often poorly qualified Pequots who nevertheless earn twice as much as other staff members. "The tribe is like a big family," says Mr. Kirchner. "If you have a family-owned business, the family expect to be treated a little differently."

For Gina Brown, 40, a former cleaner who came to the reservation to nurse her dying father, the hardest thing is just keeping an even keel when suddenly anything seems possible. "I'm trying to squeeze 30 years of life into three. It's just like a coiled spring, you wind it tight and you give it freedom and it just goes boing."

Pequots must also deal with new hostility from neighbouring communities. They now face envy and irritation over the tribe's appetite for land. In the 12 years since the Mashantucket Pequots won their precious federal recognition, they have added almost 3,000 acres to the 214-acre rump of their reservation, and every day add more — a luxury hotel, a restaurant, industrial property. Conspicuous success has also created tensions with other tribes. Reels, a top native Amer-

ican dancer who performed at the Goodwill Games in Russia, says, "I do good dances but I understand that for people who come from far away the money is important. Sometimes I give it back when I win?"

Among other Eastern tribes, many struggling for federal recognition, the bitterness runs deeper. On a ramshackle reservation barely two miles from Foxwoods, a few Indian families scratch a meagre living. They are the Eastern Pequots, descendants of survivors of the war, placed under the control of the Narragansett tribe, unlike Mashantucket Pequots who were ruled by the Uncas and Mohegans.

Marriages between the two tribes have enabled several Eastern Pequots claim Mashantucket membership. But the Mashantucket Pequots refuse to share their riches with the 500 Eastern Pequots who do not qualify. "We share a legacy, a history and a culture," says Eustace Lewis, who describes himself as an Eastern Pequot tribal council member and genealogist. "We just don't share the casino."

The Guardian

Jordan reaffirms position

(Continued from page 1)

Noting that Jordan has been entrusted with maintaining and restoring Al Aqsa Mosque, the Senate said it "fully backs the government's position vis-a-vis Israel's serious action and backs its contacts with other nations in a bid to deter further aggression and safeguard the holy sites."

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House, Abdullah Ensour, voiced the committee's outrage and condemnation of the Israeli supreme court's ruling.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Ensour said that the Foreign Affairs Committee followed with deep concern the current events in the premises of the holy sites. The Israeli

court decision is a provocation and an escalation of tension, reflecting Israel's lack of seriousness in pursuing the peace process, he said.

The events in Jerusalem, he added, "are bound to undermine the peace process and destabilise the situation in this region."

Dr. Ensour called on the Arab people of Jerusalem and the other parts of the occupied Palestinian land to remain vigilant and foil "the conspiracies of irresponsible extremist groups" and appealed to the Arab and Muslim leaders and various organisations to shoulder their responsibilities towards safeguarding the sanctity of the holy shrines.

Later the Senate endorsed a draft law on the environment which was earlier approved by the Lower House.

Arafat, Peres in fresh bid

(Continued from page 1)

City led the occupation. But by midday only a few dozen settlers — many of them children — remained, waiting under the burning sun for troops to evict them.

At Nabi Smuel, Shaul Mizrahi, "mayor" of the nearby Jerusalem settlement of Givat Zeev, vowed that a new Jewish quarter would be built on the hill.

The settlers had declared a truce Thursday after a call from President Ezer Weizman following five days of cat and mouse with troops, who evicted hundreds from three West Bank hills a total of five times.

On Friday, settler leaders met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and expressed

their concern that turning over West Bank towns and villages to Palestinian control would put them on danger.

Settler spokesman Aharon Domb said the settlers were resuming their actions because the government did not suspend talks with the PLO. A group calling itself Zu Artzeinu — "This is our country" — called Monday for a "civil revolt" and said its members would take control of 30 West Bank hilltops and block traffic in 22 cities inside Israel to protest the peace process.

Mr. Rabin said Monday that he was not worried by the protests. He said he was willing to continue discussions with the settlers but not change government policy.

Croatia says assault is over

(Continued from page 1)

into Bosnia.

The Croatian army said some rebels had tried to sneak heavy weapons across the border, breaking an agreement to disarm. The army was now prepared to resume fighting with refugees trapped in the middle.

Many refugees have already reached a self-styled Serb state in Bosnia and columns of cars, trucks and tractors were strung out along a 200-kilometre arc en route towards Serbia.

Bosnia, worried the mass influx of refugees could bolster Bosnian Serb rebels, insisted that they be allowed to continue to neighbouring Serbia. As many as 50,000 of the refugees are believed to be armed soldiers.

The Bosnian government is worried Croatian Serbs, including soldiers, will be forced to stay against their will to populate former Muslim areas and to fight in the separatist Bosnian Serb army.

"Our main concern is that (Bosnian Serb leader Radovan) Karadzic will ask them to fight for him," said Hasan Muratovic, Bosnian minister of international covenants.

In the far east of Croatia, U.N. officials said that rebel Serbs and Croatian army forces traded intermittent mortar and rocket fire Sunday and Monday.

Some 40 shells hit the village of Klisa on Sunday in the Serb-held sector, best known for the brutal war fought in 1991 culminating in the horrific destruction of Vukovar, a U.N. official in the area said.

As well as expressing concern over the impact on Bos-

nia of the flood of refugees into the country, fears have mounted in Sarajevo that an understanding now exists between Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to divide Bosnia between them.

The reports were fuelled by the announcement in Moscow that President Boris Yeltsin had invited the two men to the Russian capital for talks.

Mr. Yeltsin, on his first day back at the Kremlin after a month's recuperation from a mild heart attack, said there were attempts being made to bring Mr. Milosevic and Mr. Tudjman to Moscow, where they would meet with him and hold high-level talks.

"We are going to define how to sign a document on ending hostilities," Mr. Yeltsin was quoted by Interfax news agency as saying. The proposal was welcomed by Britain.

Mr. Yeltsin's diplomatic push, which included telephone calls to U.S. President Bill Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, was accompanied by strong criticism by the Foreign Ministry of Croatia's offensive.

U.S. and European attempts to use force, particularly airstrikes, to curb the fighting in Bosnia have failed, Mr. Yeltsin said. "That is why we have proposed to introduce our plan of action," he said.

A Russian Foreign Ministry official quoted by Interfax said there was a "high" probability of Tudjman making the trip to Moscow.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-Lebanese militiamen linked to murder bid

BEIRUT (R) — A Beirut judge ordered on Monday the arrest of four former members of a banned Christian militia suspected of involvement in a 1991 failed attempt to assassinate a minister, judicial sources said. They said the four suspects, three men and a woman, were former members of the Lebanese Forces, banned by the government in March 1994. They will be interrogated on links to the 1991 attempt to kill present Deputy Prime Minister Michel Aoun. Eight people died in the car bomb attack that targeted Mr. Aoun, then defence minister, who was slightly wounded. Three arrest warrants were issued in absentia against Raji Abdo, Rita Issa and John Najm, as the three are on the run, the sources added. The fourth, Wafa Whebeh, is in custody.

Fire destroys woods on edge of Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Arsonists are suspected of starting a fire which ravaged six hectares of woods on the edge of Jerusalem on Monday, the fire brigade announced. The blaze started by the village of Messilat Zion, about 15 kilometres from the Holy City, was quickly brought under control. It was close to where the worst forest fire since the 1940s burnt down 2,000 hectares on July 2.

Saudis behead Syrian for drug trafficking

RIYADH (AP) — A Syrian convicted of drug trafficking was beheaded Monday in Medina, the Interior Ministry reported. It identified him as Mohammad Al Jabbawi. The conviction and death sentence were handed down by an Islamic law court. Some 120 people, mostly Asians and Africans convicted for narcotics crimes, have been beheaded so far this year in the kingdom.

6 hurt in motorbike protest in Cyprus

NICOSIA (AFP) — Six people were hurt when troops and police clashed with 2,000 Greek-Cypriots on motorbikes demonstrating against the 21-year-old division of the island, police said Monday. Three people received gunshot wounds at the protest on Sunday when Turkish troops opened fire on demonstrators trying to cross the "green line" which has separated Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities on the island since 1974. Two U.N. peacekeepers and a Greek-Cypriot policeman were also injured during clashes with demonstrators, police said. The protestors, mostly young people and all on motorbikes, held a day-long rally on Sunday in the buffer zone between the two sectors and started several fires.

Iraqi Kurds to hold U.S.-led peace talks

DUBAI (AFP) — The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq are to meet Wednesday in Dublin for U.S.-sponsored peace talks, Kurdish officials said Monday. A Turkish observer will attend the three-day talks between the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), they said. The talks were originally scheduled for the Portuguese capital of Lisbon but Washington informed the two parties of the change in plan last week.

Israeli group denies aiding militants

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli-Arab charity organisation on Monday denied accusations it had funnelled money to militant groups in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "We are a pure humanitarian charitable organisation working according to Israeli laws," Suleiman Eghbariyeh, head of the Islamic Movement Aid committee, told a news conference. "We have no connection with any (militant) groups, whether Hamas or Islamic Jihad." Last month, Israeli police raided the charity's headquarters in Nazareth and said there was evidence the organisation had funnelled millions of shekels to the outlawed groups. Mr. Eghbariyeh, who is also a leader of the Islamic movement inside Israel, said his charity supports 7,000 Palestinian orphans and 1,000 Palestinian families in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Muslim-Christian talks open in Egypt

ALEXANDRIA (AFP) — President Hosni Mubarak opened a joint Islamic-Christian religious conference here Monday with a call for an end to the persecution of Muslims in Bosnia. "Followers of monotheistic religions are urged to examine objectively persecution and oppression which Muslims are subject to without any justification in various parts of the world," including Bosnia, Mr. Mubarak said. He blasted the "international community which continues to support the Serbs while remaining incapable of protecting Bosnian Muslims from genocide and ethnic cleansing or of lifting the arms embargo" on the former Yugoslavia. Around 500 Muslim and Christian theologians and researchers from 120 countries have gathered at the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria for the conference, on the theme of "Religions at the Service of Man." Sheikh Gad Al Haq Ali Haq of Al Azhar, the highest Sunni Muslim authority in Egypt, told the conference he "deeply regretted inter-Muslim disputes" and urged Muslims not to "undermine their religion."

Business Daily Beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Number, amount of bouncing cheques still rising

★ THE NUMBER of bounced cheques during the first five months of this year reached 185,300 cheques worth JD 168.3 million, representing an increase of 15.5 per cent and 21.8 per cent respectively over the same period of last year. During the month of May alone, a total of 37,400 cheques worth JD 32.9 million, bounced, compared to 35,900 cheques carrying a value of JD 29.4 million in May 1994. A total of 435,000 cheques, having a value in excess of JD 372 million, bounced last year compared to 328,400 cheques for JD 286.3 million in 1993.

According to the general manager of the Union Bank for Saving and Investment most of the bounced cheques were returned for insufficient or lack of funds. Most of the cheques were issued in settlement of instalment payments, he said. The Union Bank was receiving increased number of "cheques for collection" which has risen from two per cent in 1994 to more than 10 per cent of the total number of cheques this year. The Union Bank chief stressed that this situation was negatively affecting many economic sectors and specifically electronics market. He attributed the main cause for the higher volume of bouncing cheques to the slowdown in national economic activities and the lack of a "strong movement" in the commercial sector.

The Central Bank of Jordan recently issued a memorandum to the banks in the Kingdom to remedy the issue of bouncing cheques. Outlining the main points in the memorandum, the general manager of the Business Bank said the Central Bank stressed the following:

- 1) Upgrading the black list of names of persons who issue cheques without having funds in their accounts.
- 2) Holding banks responsible in ensuring that their clients issue cheques on forms supplied by banks and not obtained from stationery shops.
- 3) Giving the Association of Banks in Jordan the role of informing member banks of "black-listed" names compiled by the Central Bank from monthly lists submitted by all banks in the Kingdom. This approach replaces a system of direct coordination between the banks and the association, seen by the Central Bank as lacking strong cooperation.
- 4) Obliging the banks to:
 - A) Refrain from opening accounts for anyone named in the "black-list";
 - B) Honour any cheque for less than JD 300 even if a client did not have enough funds;
 - C) Pay a fine for issuing a cheque-book to a "black-listed" name (Al Aswaq, Al Dustour).

★ AQABA REGIONAL Authority President Fayez Al Khasawneh sees investments in tourism, transport, trade, industry as well as Aqaba port expansion reaching \$2 billion over the coming few years. He said the authority would submit a comprehensive plan for the Aqaba region until the year 2020 to the Amman economic summit. Noting that incentives, investment terms and contract forms have been prepared, especially for setting up tourist hotels on lands to be leased by the authority on the southern coast, Dr. Khasawneh said he hoped to come to the Amman summit with a JD 250 million package of investments in the hotel sector. He revealed that the authority had allocated a 14-square-kilometre area behind the fertilizer plant and near the Saudi border for setting up various industries. The area, three kilometres on the sea front and five kilometres deep in land, could be used as a multi-purpose free zone or to set up ports and wharfs for that section (Al Dustour).

Beilin: Fund to be created as stepping stone to Mideast bank

TEL AVIV (AP) — Economy Minister Yossi Beilin said Monday a regional fund was being considered to finance studies on Arab-Israeli projects as a stepping stone to forming a Middle East bank.

Mr. Beilin told the Foreign Press Association that the fund would make available tens of millions of dollars for low-interest loans to fund feasibility studies on regional projects.

"The compromise being molded is kind of a two-stage concept, first a fund and then a bank," said Mr. Beilin, adding the fund idea was expected to be approved before a Middle East economic conference scheduled for October in Amman.

The fund is a much scaled-down version of the regional bank promoted by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. It envisioned Western donors helping raise starting capital

of \$10 billion to fund joint Arab-Israeli development projects.

Mr. Beilin said initial U.S. objections to a regional bank — seen as impractical and a duplication of the existing World Bank — were overcome when American officials saw Israel acting jointly with its Arab peace partners, Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians.

"The Europeans were much more skeptical about it," said Mr. Beilin.

Mr. Beilin said Israel and the Arabs should work jointly in the fields of telecommunications, roads, electrical grids and water.

"Economically speaking, it would be stupid to continue the current situation where we provide our needs separately," said Mr. Beilin.

But Mr. Beilin stressed that in trade relations and other areas Israel should not try to force the pace if Arab

states were fearful.

"If the mood there is that we are trying to dominate the Arab World economically by trading with them... we should be very careful about imposing ourselves on them," said Mr. Beilin.

The fund and bank issue is to be raised at a Sept. 9 meeting in Paris that will prepare the way for the Amman conference at which Israel and Arab states, including those from the Gulf, will meet with international supporters and private business representatives.

Israeli officials said it was not clear how senior the Arab representation would be at the Amman meeting. The conference was also expected to decide on proposals to create regional tourism and business centre to coordinate Arab-Israeli cooperation.

Hindu nationalists target Pepsi, Coke

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — Hindu nationalists are to launch a nationwide campaign Wednesday aimed at driving away U.S. giants Pepsi and Coke from India, a move that could spike the country's free-market reforms.

Buoyed by the axing of a huge power project of the U.S. Enron Corp. in an Indian state, the Hindu activists are confident that both Pepsi and Coca-Cola Co. will meet a similar fate.

"Our credibility has gone up with the scrapping of Enron," said Nishikant, spokesman for Swadesi Jagran Manch (SJM), National Awakening Forum, which campaigned to scrap the \$2.8 billion Enron project in the western state of Maharashtra.

"Our next step will be against Pepsi and Coke," he said.

The SJM is a wing of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), India's most powerful Hindu group that also controls the country's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's

Party).

The SJM has in the past called for a boycott of foreign goods.

The launch of the proposed campaign, directed against all multinationals, will coincide with the 43rd anniversary of the "Quit India" movement of Mahatma Gandhi which brought the British Raj to the brink of collapse.

Some 2,000 SJM activists and supporters will gather near a Mahatma Gandhi statue here for a rally to denounce increasing foreign investment in India, Mr. Nishikant said.

Similar meetings will be organised in other Indian cities.

"Our aim is to create an awareness among the people that multinationals are not a must for India," Mr. Nishikant said. "Why do we need Pepsi? Or Coke? We don't particularly want foreign investment in the consumer sector."

The SJM threat assumes significance in the wake of Thursday's stunning decision by the western state of Maharashtra to scrap the Enron project, saying it was an

economic drain.

The BJP is a member of Maharashtra's two-party coalition government.

Mr. Nishikant said Pepsi and Coke were the most visible symbol of "everything that is wrong with the present government's economic liberalisation. So the two companies will be our first target."

Coca-Cola resumed operations in India in 1993 after quitting the country in 1977 when it was ordered to dilute its equity to 40 per cent or divulge its "secret formula."

Its arch rival Pepsi launched its India operations in 1991. Their entry followed New Delhi's decision to put a lid on four decades of semi-socialist policies with sweeping reforms that opened up the Indian economy to foreign capital.

"We are a poor country where millions struggle for a living," Mr. Nishikant said. "Pepsi and Coke do not serve the overwhelming majority of our population. Yet they are penetrating even villages."

"We will build a sustained campaign against them. We will demand that both the companies should be thrown out. Our campaign will gather strength before we go for parliamentary elections (expected in March)."

The SJM, formed in 1990, advocates "Swadeshi" or "economic nationalism" — a concept which has the support of BJP President Lal Krishna Advani.

"Economic nationalism does not mean isolationism," he said here. "It emphasises self-reliance and self-confidence. In the name of liberalisation, the present government is sacrificing national self-respect."

Government officials fear that the SJM campaign, on top of the Enron axing, may slow down foreign investment in India. "If things go on like this, we shall be in big trouble," an official said.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 8/8/95	Tokyo Close 7/27/95
Sterling Pound	1.6055	1.6071
Deutsche Mark	1.3972	1.3976
Swiss Franc	1.1525	1.1538
French Franc	6.4010	6.4072
Japanese Yen	91.44	91.66
European Currency Unit	1.3328	1.3341

Source: Reuters. All rates for settlement on 8/8/95.

Domestic Exchange Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.61	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	5.56	5.62	5.73	5.93
Deutsche Mark	4.18	4.18	4.18	4.25
Swiss Franc	1.50	1.50	1.62	2.75
French Franc	5.94	5.91	5.75	5.75
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.54	0.50	0.50
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.75	5.78	5.84

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Domestic Exchange Rates

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World Athletics Championships

Joyner-Kersey flies home; O'Brien on course

GOTEBORG (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersey flew home to the United States Monday after her long jump flop at the World Athletics Championships, leaving behind her world heptathlon title.

Organisers of a news conference she was scheduled to attend, announced she was going home.

The 33-year-old American, who was world long jump champion in 1987 and '91, finished a disappointing sixth in Sunday's final after clearing only 6.74 metres. The event was won by Italy's Fiona May with 6.98.

Joyner-Kersey, also heptathlon titlist in 1987, was down to defend the championship she won in Stuttgart two years ago. The event starts Wednesday but her coach and husband, Bob Kersey, announced after the long jump performance she would be advising her not to compete.

Meanwhile, another two-time champion and world record holder looked well set to hang on to his title.

Dan O'Brien, who opened the second day of the decathlon competition with a slender 47-point lead, stretched that to 139 at the end of the second event, the discus.

That was despite losing the lead in his 110m hurdles race to Eduard Hamalainen of Belarus over the last two hurdles.

O'Brien looked well in control of the race until he chopped his stride before the seventh and then before the ninth. Hamalainen came through to win the race in 13.73, while the American clocked 13.78 with his nearest rival, countryman Chris Huffins, back in fifth in 14.25.

The performance was enough to earn O'Brien 1,003 points to take his total to 5,531 after six events. Huffins scored 942 for 5,423 so that O'Brien led by 108 points with four events to go.

Hamalainen moved into second place ahead of Huffins with a throw of 49.96 in the discus, even though the best of the competition came from Canada's Mike Smith, whose 50.84 moved up to fourth place.

O'Brien threw 46.92 to take his total on to 6,337. Hamalainen had 6,198 and Huffins managed only 43.80, to total 6,165. That meant Huffins, who led O'Brien 107 points after three events, was in danger of losing the bronze medal position to Smith, who has moved up to 6,104, only behind with three events to go.

Other finals Monday were the women's 100 metres, involving Olympic 200 metre titlist Gwen Torrence, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey and Russia's Irina Privalova, the men's triple jump, with new world record holder Jonathan Edwards of Britain, and the women's 10 kilometre walk.



Cuba's highjump world record holder Javier Sotomayor clears the bar during the qualification round of the men's highjump event (AFP photo)

The legacy of Ben Johnson turned out to be the inspiration that drove the Canada's Donovan Bailey and Bruny Surin to win the gold and silver medals in the 100 metres.

They went out of their way to show the world that Canadian sprinters shouldn't automatically be associated with drugs and finishing 1-2 at the worlds seemed an ideal way to do it.

"There had been doubts that we deserved the 1-2 ranking in the world," Bailey said after winning Sunday's final. "Now, the doubters have been answered."

The 27-year-old Jamaican-born sprinter says he has been tested six times in the past three weeks. It's because, like Johnson, he's a Jamaican-born Canadian

who runs fast. Bailey said that after Johnson was banned for life for taking steroids to enhance his performance, other Canadians tended to look down on the young black sprinters who once idolised the former champion.

The Johnson scandal emptied the stands at athletics meets, he said. Until recently.

"Now there's 8,000 or more showing up to watch us," Bailey said and, after this performance, there will be thousands more.

Bailey went into the championships as the fastest in the world this year with a 9.91 he raced at the Canadian championships in Montreal a month ago.

His 9.97 to win the gold medal before 40,000 fans in

the Ullevi stadium was the only sub-10.00 performance of the championship.

Surin and third place finisher Ato Boldon of Trinidad both clocked 10.03.

While the race was a major triumph for the Canadian pair, it was a disaster for the only American finalist, Mike Marsh, and for the defending titlist, Linford Christie.

Marsh, Olympic 200 metre titlist and winner of the 100 final at the U.S. trials, placed fifth in 10.10. The fact that he didn't medal meant it was the first time since the 1976 Olympics in Montreal that the United States was empty handed from the 100 metres at a major meet.

Christie, who suffered a hamstring injury in the semi-final, only decided a half hour before that he would

run in the final.

Finishing sixth in 10.12, he collapsed on the track and helped away by medics to ponder whether he will take any further part in the championships.

Unlike Christie, Gail Devers managed to hang to her title.

Winner of a 100-100m hurdles double at the last worlds in Stuttgart two years ago, Devers wasn't expected to beat the fastest hurdler in the world, Kazakhstan's Olga Shishigina, who was unbeaten in 10 finals this year. Devers beat her by two metres.

"Coming into the meet, I wasn't favoured," Devers said. "But if I wanted to find (motivation), I could look back at 1993."

Devers overcomes injuries to win hurdles title again

GOTEBORG, Sweden (AP) — Gail Devers kept tearing up her left hamstring. Then, she tore up the track at Ullevi Stadium.

Devers, the 1992 Olympic champion in the 100 metres and the gold medalist in the 100 and 100 hurdles at the 1993 World Championships, added her second straight world hurdles title Sunday.

And she did it with a flourish. Facing the year's top hurdler, Olga Shishigina of Kazakhstan, the unflappable Devers overcame her underdog role and won in a sparkling 12.64 seconds.

The scintillating victory made up for a year of pain in which she was plagued with four hamstring tears, the

most recent in February. Pain is nothing new for the 28-year-old Devers. In 1991, she made a miraculous recovery from Graves' Disease, a life-threatening thyroid ailment.

This time, her injuries disrupted her training.

"It made my training sporadic," she said.

There were periods, for as long as two weeks, when she couldn't practice. To miss training in such a technical event as the hurdles can be devastating for many athletes. Not for the resilient Devers.

Working with her coaches, Bob Kersey and three-time world men's outdoor hurdles gold medalist, along with training partner, Jackie

Joyner-Kersey, Devers was able to regain her form faster and quicker than most. "Bobby babied me," Devers said. "We did a lot of drills. We progressed very slowly."

The close attention over the past four or five weeks helped get Devers healthy again, and she was not afraid of facing the world's best hurdler, who had been unbeaten in 10 finals this year.

"It's great to come back to win," Devers said. "They changed the schedule, and I picked the hurdles (over the 100 metres)."

"I haven't had a lot of competitions, so I just had to concentrate on the one really well. I just focused on my

lane. I didn't know about the other people in the race."

Shishigina finished second at 12.80, with Yuliya Graudyn of Russia third at 12.85.

Devers was unfazed by her time, her second-fastest of the year, nor Shishigina's earlier 12.44.

"I don't set time goals," she said. "The key in the hurdles is to continue my 100-metre speed and work on my technique."

The combination came into perfect play Sunday, as she became the first 100 hurdler to win consecutive titles at a major championship since Shirley De La Hunty of Australia took the 1952 and 1956 Olympic gold medals.

Money talks in European Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Paul Gascoigne's Rangers and 15 other clubs who open their European Cup campaign on Wednesday can be excused for having a bigger eye on their bank balance than football glory.

About \$7.5 million is guaranteed to the eight clubs who win their two-leg preliminary round and qualify for the Champions League group stages.

Rangers know only too well the misery of not qualifying as they were knocked out by AEK Athens last season. But Cypriot side Anorthosis, whom they entertain in the first leg, are much less of an obstacle than their Greek neighbours.

Gascoigne, who makes his competitive debut, cost \$6.5 million from Lazio and qualification would recoup all that with more to spare.

Ukraine's Dynamo Kiev host Denmark's Aalborg and will have a point to prove if they make one of the four groups of four teams.

Kiev beat Spartak Moscow in their opening group match last season, before losing five

in a row in Group B won by Paris Saint Germain.

Meanwhile Kiev, ranked 25th in the club's ranking table, had a stroke of luck to displacing Red Star Belgrade, who compete in the UEFA Cup.

Gothenburg, who travel to Legia Warsaw, know all about Champions League success. They topped Group A above Barcelona and Manchester United last year before losing to Bayern Munich in the quarter-finals.

Croatia's Hajduk Split will also hope to build on last year's successes as they qualified from the Champions League groups into the quarter-finals.

Greek side Panathinaikos stand between Split and a further appearance at the group stage, and 24-times Belgium champions Anderlecht play Hungary's Ferencvaros.

Apart from Red Star, another club from the former Yugoslavia has been admitted into Europe this season since the ending of UEFA's ban. FC Obilic faces Dinamo

Batumi of Georgia in the first leg of one of the 16 Cup Winners' Cup preliminary round matches on Thursday.

In another Cup Winners' Cup fixture, Maccabi Haifa of Israel, who in the 1993/94 season only lost to the then champions Parma 3-1 on penalties, have surely an easy tie against Tottenham of the Faroe Islands.

Meanwhile, Turkey's Galatasaray, who hit world headlines two seasons ago in beating Manchester United in the European Cup, play Sparta Prague in the UEFA Cup on Tuesday.

Galatasaray's new coach is former Liverpool boss Graeme Souness, who signed a one-year contract reportedly worth \$500,000.

Souness will be under pressure to repeat the pedigree shown by Galatasaray in Europe the last two seasons against Sparta Prague, who were allocated a place as the Czech Republic champions.

Slovakia's Slovan Bratislava were also given a place into the UEFA Cup as Slovakian champions and they meet NK Osijek of Croatia.

Ghana qualifies in Youth World Cup

QUITO, Ecuador (AP) — Ghana became the first team to qualify in the first round of the Youth World Cup Soccer tournament in Ecuador, while Argentina, which wrestled a 2-0 from Costa Rica Sunday, is close to qualifying.

Meanwhile the United States, Canada and Portugal were eliminated from advancing to the next round of the tournament for youths under 17.

Sixteen teams from five continents converged on Ecuador for the championship, which will wrap up Aug. 20 with the final. The tournament is divided into four groups from which two teams each will advance to the next round.

Group A, Ghana is the leader with six points from two victories, a 1-0 win over Japan and a 2-1 victory over Ecuador. Japan and Ecuador will play the deciding match Tuesday, when the United States will play a meaningless game with Ghana.

In Group B, Argentina must still face Guinea on Wednesday before it can be assured of qualifying. Both Guinea and Costa Rica remain in contention to qualify for the next round. Costa Rica plays Portugal on Wednesday.

Nigeria, the reigning world champion in under 17 soccer, leads Group C with four points along with Spain. The Nigerians defeated Australia 2-0 Sunday and Spain downed Qatar 1-0.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Nomo continues U.S. success

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Fifty years after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, a Japanese baseball pitcher who has become a U.S. sensation nearly hurled a no-hitter against the San Francisco Giants. Hideo Nomo struck out 11 batters and allowed only one hit while getting two hits and knocking home his first run, leading the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 3-0 triumph here Saturday night. "I could have kept going like that for several more innings," said Nomo. "I knew I had not allowed a hit but I wasn't thinking about the no-hitter." Nomo improved his record to 9-2, raised his National League-leading strikeout total to 161 and dropped his earned-run average to 1.89, second-lowest in the league. "He has been that consistent all year," Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda said. "He has pitched a lot of them like that." Nomo is a rookie in the U.S. major leagues but was a star in Japan before retiring from Japanese baseball and signing with the Dodgers for a two million-dollar bonus.

Rain forces cancellation of tournament

BROOKLINE (AP) — South African Wayne Ferreira had to settle for the \$25,000 runner-up prize Sunday when the second day of constant rain forced the cancellation of the U.S. Pro Tennis tournament at Longwood Cricket Club. "This is the first time since the tournament started in 1964 that there was no winner," said tournament spokesman John Thompson. Ferreira, the No. 2 seed, advanced to the championship — and a shot at the \$50,000 top prize — with a 7-5, 7-5 victory Saturday over fourth-seeded Richey Reneberg of Minneapolis. Top-seeded Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia and third-seeded Alex Corretja of Spain never took the court Saturday night or Sunday, but were awarded \$12,500 apiece as semifinalists. The tournament was not part of the Association of Tennis Professionals Tour and is considered an exhibition.

Mantle receives transfusion

DALLAS (AP) — Plunging blood levels, caused by cancer treatments on former baseball star Mickey Mantle forced doctors to give the 63-year-old a blood transfusion here Sunday and more are expected. Anemia caused by chemotherapy to treat lung cancer will prevent Mantle from leaving the hospital Monday as planned. His cancer spread from the liver, which was so diseased that a transplant was performed two months ago. "We got it bumped back up with the (first) transfusion, but because he's not making enough of his own blood, his level is falling again," said Mantle's doctor, Daniel DeMarco said. "He had chemo eight days ago and about eight to 10 days later when the maximal effect on bone marrow is apparent," DeMarco said. "They often become transfusion-dependent." DeMarco said Mantle's spirits are good and he is watching television.

'Opel reserves right to break Graf contract'

BONN (AFP) — German automaker Opel reserves the right to break off its cooperation relationship with German tennis star Steffi Graf, suspected of tax fraud, a General Motors official said on German radio on Monday.

Hans Wilhelm Gaeb, GM's vice-president for Europe, said that "we are naturally free to take a decision against Steffi." Opel is a GM subsidiary.

But Gaeb added that to break the relationship, Opel would have to be convinced that Graf, the world's top-ranking woman tennis player, "knowingly took part in the fraud" of which her father, Peter, has been accused.

"For us, that would be the line that must not be crossed. But for the moment, we do not see any reason to believe that."

Karl Maurer, an Opel spokesman speaking on



Steffi Graf another radio programme, said the automaker would like to continue its advertising contract with the star, worth one and a half million marks a year to her. He said

initial contacts had been made on extending the deal, which expires at the end of the year, but negotiations were interrupted due to recent events.

Parma A.C. beat Boca Juniors to win Parmalat Cup

EAST RUTHERFORD (R) — Bulgarian international Hristo Stoichkov scored two goals and set up a third as Parma A.C. of Italy defeated Boca Juniors of Argentina 3-1 in the Parmalat Cup Final on Sunday before a crowd of 32,859 at Giants Stadium.

In the third place match, the U.S. National team defeated Benfica of Portugal 2-1.

It was Stoichkov's second appearance for Parma, the 1995 UEFA Cup champion, since transferring from Barcelona. In his debut, a friendly against Anderlecht on July 28, the forward suffered a bruised leg and was held out of the line-up Friday night when Parma beat the U.S. 2-1 in the opening match of the tournament.

Stoichkov beat goalkeeper Fernando Montoya on a 12-yard strike from the right side at 34 minutes and followed with a penalty kick in the 44th. Stoichkov converted the penalty after midfielder Dino Baggio was fouled in

the area by defender Rodolfo Arruabarrena.

In the 51st, Stoichkov lofted a cross to Swedish international Tomas Brodin who headed in at the right post for the final goal of the game.

"It was very important for Parma to win this cup," said Stoichkov, the tournament's MVP. "I have played strongly here (at Giants Stadium) — in four games, I have scored five goals here."

During the 1994 World Cup, Stoichkov scored against Germany, Italy and Mexico.

Parma coach Nevio Scala considered the tournament a crucial tuneup for his team before the start of the Italian League this month.

"We won a very important cup today," said Scala. "In Italy, five or six teams are ready to play for the (Italian) Cup title. We were excited to play against teams who were prepared and physically fit. Cameroon international

Alphonse Tchami, drew Boca within 2-1 when he struck a shot from seven yards past goalkeeper Luca Bucci in the 46th minute.

The second half was marked by physical play with Boca's Blas Giunta and Walter Pico and Parma's Alessandro Meli being ejected.

The U.S. missing 11 regular players due to club commitments, still earned the victory on a goal by Ray Lasserre in the 68th minute. Lasserre headed home a cross by defender Jeff Agoos from four yards past goalkeeper Michel Preud'homme.

"I'm an opportunist and I took advantage of the opportunity," Lasserre said. "That's basically where I score my goals — inside the six (yard box)."

The U.S. took a 1-0 lead on a 13th minute penalty kick by Frank Klopas after midfielder Luis Gustavo handled the ball in the area. Klopas' shot beat Preud'homme low to the left side.

GOREN BRIDGE

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AX THE ADAGE

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
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8 5 4
A J 10 6
Q 7 2

WEST
Q 7 6 5
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SOUTH
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The bidding:
North East South West
1 Pass 1 Pass
2 Pass 3 NT Pass

Opening lead: Jack of 4

If you play by rote, slavishly following all those cute little maxims you will get away with it most of the time. But rules are no substitute for logic, as this deal testifies.

Even without a heart stopper, North might have done better to rebid one no trump to describe the balanced nature of the hand. With North as declarer, three no trump

would have been impervious to human frailty.

West led the jack of clubs, declarer "covered an honor with an honor" by putting up dummy's queen, then ducked East's king. On the club return declarer won the ace, performed a West smartly unblocked the ten.

The contract now hinged on the diamond finesse. When that lost, East was able to cash three more club tricks for a one-trick set.

Declarer's error came at the very first trick. Obviously, if the diamond finesse was going to win, the contract was safe. How could declarer cater to East having the king of diamonds?

With East on lead, the club suit was safe from further attack as long as the guarded queen of clubs remained on the table. Therefore, declarer should have played low from dummy on the first trick and won with the ace in hand. Now when East wins the king of diamonds, if East returns anything other than a club, declarer claims nine tricks — two in each major, four diamonds and the ace of clubs. A club return yields an overtrick.

TODAY

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CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in
Easy to Get
(Arabic)
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Adel Imam in
Bakht and Adilch
Shows: 12:30, 6, 10:30
Ahmad Zaid in
The Third Man
Shows: 3:30, 8:30
CONCORD "2"
SPEED
Shows: 3:30, 8:30

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Sports



A 1972 Mercedes 280 SE

Classic car exhibition awaits enthusiasts

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Classic car lovers will have the chance of their life to see a Mercedes 190SL 1959, a 1936 Volvo P51 and more in the second Classic Cars Exhibition which will be held on Aug. 10 and 11 at the Amman International Motor Show.

More than 40 cars will be exhibited in the show sponsored by National Paints and organised by the Classic Cars Committee at the

Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

The show will also include a number of His Majesty King Hussein's private collection of priceless cars.

At a press conference held Sunday evening at the RACJ, committee vice president Tarek Tabba said that it was really important to continue the idea of having an annual classic car exhibition following last year's successful inaugural show.

"We are happy this year to find people calling us to

get more information about the show," he said. "Last year we used to call them and ask if they want to exhibit their cars. People are aware now and appreciate their classic cars," he added.

The show will include a number of exotic cars like a 1980 Ferrari 308, a Lotus Sprint, a Renault Clio Williams 1994 just to name a few.

"A classic car does not mean it is old because a sport car could also be considered a classic, for exam-

ple a Porche 911," Tabba said.

President of National Paints Michel Sayegh added: "We hope to see more participation from people who appreciate the cars they own."

In order to promote interest in classic cars, the RACJ's committee has issued a 1995 calendar with pictures of the cars beside some famous Jordanian sites. Admission to the show is also priced at 500 fils to enable all to come and have a look.



Rockies' Mike Klingery and New York Mets catcher Todd Hundley, both look to the home plate umpire after a play at the plate during the 3rd inning

Throwing error allows Detroit to edge Yankees

DETROIT (R) — A throwing error by New York third baseman Wade Boggs opened the door for the Detroit Tigers to nip the Yankees 6-5 in 12 innings on Sunday.

With one on and one out, Boggs threw away the ball on a routine ground ball by Juan Samuel. After Allan Trammell was intentionally walked to load the bases and John Falter popped out, rookie Derrick White stroked the game winning infield single.

"They lost today because of one thing," Tigers' manager Sparky Anderson said. "They played poor defence. If they make the routine defensive plays, they win the game."

The Yankees blew a 4-0 lead and head their three-game winning streak snapped. Detroit tied the game in the ninth inning, scratching a run off Yankee closer John Nettelard on Travis Fryman's RBI single.

In Baltimore, Kevin Seitzer's RBI single in the eighth inning off Kevin Brown (5-7), lifted the Milwaukee Brewers to a 3-2 victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

Mike Ignasiak (4-11) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. Mike Fetters, who had saved 20 consecutive games before giving up three runs on Saturday, worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save.

Bobby Bonilla's two-run home run in the sixth inning tied the game 2-2. It was the slugger's third since coming

to the Orioles in a trade with the New York Mets last week.

At Minnesota, Mark Gubicza hurled a four-hitter and Gary Gaetti belted two of his team's season-high five homers as the Kansas City Royals pounded the Minnesota Twins 11-1.

Gubicza (8-9) retired 21 straight batters after Chuck Knoblauch led off the game with a single and took a two-hitter into the ninth inning before allowing a sacrifice fly by Rich Becker. He walked none and struck out one.

Gaetti hit solo shots, his 223rd and 24th, in the second and seventh innings. Rookie Jon Nunnally hit a two-run home run and Wallay Joyner and Keith Lockhart added solo shots for the Royals.

At California, Roger Pavlik shut down the potent California Angels offense for seven innings and Will Clark drove in two runs to lead the Texas Rangers to a 5-2 victory.

Pavlik (6-6) lost his shutout bid when Spike Owen doubled home J.T. Snow with two out in the eighth inning. Pavlik limited California to seven hits and four walks with six strikeouts.

Texas roughed up Angels starter Brian Anderson (6-3) for five runs and eight hits in seven-plus innings. The Rangers scored twice in the first inning.

In Oakland, red-hot Mike Blowers belted a three-run home run and drove in four

runs and Tino Martinez added three RBI as the Seattle Mariners outslug the Oakland Athletics, 15-6.

Blowers, who drove in four runs for the second straight game, slammed his 12th homer in the seventh inning off reliever Steve Phoenix to give Seattle an 8-2 lead. He added a run-scoring single in the eighth for a 12-5 advantage and has 15 RBI in his last four games.

Dan Wilson and Rich Amaral each drove in two

runs apiece and Joey Cora had three hits for the Mariners.

In Toronto, John Valentin belted a two-run seventh-inning home run to lift Boston to a 6-4 win over Toronto, the fourth win in a row for the Eastern Division leading Red Sox.

Valentin's 18th homer came off Toronto starter Edwin Hurtado (3-1). Valentin also singled in a run in the fourth inning that gave Boston a 4-3 lead.

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Stich wins 1st title of year

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — Second seed Michael Stich rallied to beat fifth seed Thomas Enqvist 6-7 (7-9), 7-6 (7-4), 6-2 in the final of the \$328,000 Infiniti Open on Sunday for the German's first singles title of the year.

Stich had not won since winning at home in Halle 14 months ago. This year, the 1991 Wimbledon champion had lost in finals at Stuttgart (indoor), Munich and Halle.

"If I had won those other finals it would have been considered a great year," Stich said. "Before it didn't work out but today I hung in and maintained good concentration. I'm very happy."

Stich now \$45,000. Enqvist collected \$25,300. The defeat was a career first in six finals for Enqvist. This year the Swede had won titles at Auckland, Philadelphia and Pinhurst.

Stich utilised a powerful serve in the two hour and 29 minute struggle. Ranked ninth in the world, Stich slammed in 17 aces and never dropped his serve.

Enqvist too was untouchable on his serve until the third game of the final set when Stich broke for a 2-1 lead.

"I didn't think I served badly when he broke me," said Enqvist, ranked 16 in the world. "Michael just played a series of very good points."

The victory was Stich's 15th career singles title and his first in the United States in early four years since winning at Schenectady (N.Y.).

Martinez cruises to Toshiba title

In Carlsbad, California, second seed Conchita Martinez cruised past Lisa Raymond of the United States 6-2, 6-0 in the final of the \$30,000 Toshiba tennis classic on Sunday for the Spaniard's fifth title of the year.

"I have been playing great tennis, playing at a high level the whole year," Martinez said after pocketing the winner's check of \$79,500.

"I went out there to play my match and I was confident that I could do it," said Martinez, ranked third in the world. "When you feel confident, I'm sure you play good."

After having been extended to three sets in the two previous two meetings against Raymond, the 1994 Wimbledon champion needed just 68 minutes this time to overwhelm the ninth seed.

Martinez controlled the match with heavy topspin groundstrokes and kept Raymond off-balance at the net with several effective lobbs.

"She pretty much had an answer for everything I threw at her today," said Raymond, who failed in her third career final to win her first professional singles title. "Obviously, it's frustrating, but I'm not gonna dwell on it. I just gotta move on."

Though Raymond managed to hit 17 winners, she also made 23 unforced errors. Martinez also broke Raymond's serve six times.

"She's tough to play because she hits such a different ball than anyone else," said Raymond, who earned \$35,500. "Her ball is just so heavy. If you don't initially attack than your in trouble. There's just so much topspin on the ball that it pins you back. Her passing shots were working very well today."

New faces, weak times bring U.S. worries

ATLANTA (AFP) — Weak times by a new generation of U.S. swim champions have some coaches worried entering the Pan Pacific Championships, a crucial pre-Olympic tuneup this week at the venue for the 1996 Atlanta Games.

Four-time Olympic champion Janet Evans, who had not lost a U.S. crown since 1987, and Barcelona Olympic 200-metre butterfly winner Mel Stewart were among the veterans displaced by younger swimmers at last week's U.S. finals.

Most winning times were below the standard set by past stars, with only two American records falling. With U.S. Olympic trials only seven months away, club coaches such as Mike Gautreau of California are worried.

"All of us are coming to the same thought — we have to go back to the drawing board," he said. "People are concerned. We have an Olympics next year and if things don't get better, we're going to be in trouble as a country next March."

Richard Quick, the 1996 U.S. Women's Olympic coach, expects faster times this week and for Olympic qualifying.

"There's no need for alarm," Quick said. "It was a little bit slow for a national. What's going on is a lot of significant people are on a two-year plan to swim fast in March and next July (at the Olympics)."

"We will be better at the Pan Pacific. But even that won't be as fast as in March. A high percentage of the people who make a meet fast

have not had a lot of rest." U.S. 100m backstroke winner Lea Loveless sees the slump as a combination of bad timing and a generational change.

"We have a lot of young people who are just getting their foot in the door and older swimmers who, consciously or subconsciously, are looked ahead to the Olympic trials," she said.

Mark Schubert, the U.S. women's Olympic assistant coach, said most rising U.S. stars are not yet near their peak.

Croatia might be excluded from UEFA cups

GENEVA (R) — UEFA is reviewing the participation of two Croatian teams in this season's three major European club competition but away matches this week go ahead as planned.

Hajduk Split and Osijek could both be affected by the renewed conflict in Croatia, where government troops have overrun a rebel Serb enclave in the past few days, a UEFA spokesman said on Monday.

But the UEFA cup preliminary round game between Osijek and Slovan Bra-

tislava on Tuesday and Wednesday's European Cup preliminary round match involving Hajduk Split and Panathinaikos will go ahead because both are away.

Second leg matches due to be played in two weeks' time in Croatia may either be moved out of the country or cancelled altogether according to the changing situation.

The spokesman added that there were no plans to exclude Yugoslav clubs, who are making their return to European club competition

after four years' absence. UEFA's information was that the matches should not pose a security risk.

"For the Croatian teams we are considering the situation every day. They will play their games away this week so there is no problem," the spokesman said.

"But for the home games we may have to consider two possibilities — one to play abroad, the second solution would be to exclude them from the competition."

"If the United Nations de-

cided to put an embargo on Croatia we would have to exclude them," he added.

Osijek are due to play the second leg match against the Slovaaks in Zagreb on August 22. Osijek is an eastern Croatian town near a separate rebel Serb enclave which has not come under attack from the Croatian army but tensions have been high in the region.

Split, a coastal city on the Adriatic close to the current conflict zone, are due to host the Greek side on August 23.

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Egypt wants Sudanese out of Halaib triangle

HALAIB TRIANGLE, near the Egypt-Sudan border (R) — Egypt is tightening control of the disputed desert triangle of Halaib, and local officials said they plan to expel 900 Sudanese police who have administered the area for decades.

Journalists visited the area on Sunday, more than a month after clashes between security forces there as Egypt claimed that Sudan was involved in an assassination attempt against President Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June.

Major-General Abdul Hamid Serageldin, head of Halaib's local council, said that Egypt is determined to end the Sudanese presence and to link the area to the rest of the country.

He said 900 Sudanese policemen who have been administering Halaib "are now under control," and that their presence is confined to a small area close to the border with Sudan.

"There is no Sudanese presence at all (in Halaib). The 900 Sudanese policemen are present until they get expelled. We only allow them to live here," he told some 100 local and international reporters, visiting at the invitation of the Egyptian government.

The Egyptian-Sudanese dispute over Halaib has festered since 1956 when Sudan became independent. And it has regularly surfaced whenever political ties deteriorated.

Egypt says the triangle belongs to it under an agreement signed in 1899 but in 1905 another agreement was signed giving Sudan the right to administer Halaib. Sudan

was allowed to maintain what Egyptians call "a civil police force" there.

The latest dispute over Halaib started after Sudanese President Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir came to power in a military coup in 1989.

Almost a year later, Sudan announced it had granted a Canadian oil company exploration rights in the triangle, an agreement which Egypt rejected. Their relationship deteriorated further as the two countries differed during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

After the failed assassination attempt on Mr. Mubarak and Egypt's charges that Sudan was providing military training for militants seeking to overthrow the Cairo government, Egypt said it will end Sudanese presence in Halaib and announced plans to develop the area.

Gen. Bashir said in remarks published on Monday Cairo was interfering in Sudanese affairs.

The official SUNA news agency quoted Gen. Bashir as saying Egypt, which jointly ruled Sudan with Britain before Sudanese independence in 1956, was opposed to the "Islamic orientation" of his government and could not accept that Khartoum was now charting its own course.

SUNA said he also made a veiled reference to increasing Sudan's share of waters from the Nile, a potentially explosive source of dispute between the two countries which both depend on the river for their water.

Gen. Bashir said that when he seized power in June 1989 Egypt's consul in Khartoum requested that Sudan appoint

an Egyptian political adviser to the ruling National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council which held executive and legislative powers in Sudan until it was dissolved in 1993.

Gen. Bashir said Egypt also tried to nominate three Egyptian officials to take part in an eight-member team sent to negotiate with Sudan's southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

"Five of them were to represent the Sudan government while three were to represent the interests of Egypt," Gen. Bashir said, adding that Sudan had rejected the demands which it considered a serious interference in its affairs.

He said Egyptian interference had continued with official protests that Cairo was not informed before a recent visit Gen. Bashir made to Libya.

Gen. Bashir's comments were published a day after Egypt accused his country of training members of the militant hit squad which tried to kill Mr. Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June.

Egyptian authorities said five suspected militants arrested recently had confessed that they were trained in Sudan in a camp alongside three of Mr. Mubarak's would-be assassins.

Responsibility for the Addis Ababa shooting was claimed by Egypt's largest militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group). Ethiopian investigators said all 11 members of the plan were Egyptians.

But Egypt insisted Sudan was behind the attack.



RECORD LINE: Malaysian volunteers arrange coins to set the world record for the longest line of coins in the streets of Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. Five hundred volunteers used 2,367,234 coins to build a 56.63-kilometre line, beating the previous record set in Britain by 6.74 kilometres (AFP photo)

Carbomb kills 11 in Algeria

ALGIERS (Agencies) — At least 11 civilians were killed in a truck blast at the weekend, two newspapers reported Monday, in one of a spate of bomb attacks linked to fundamentalist violence against the government.

The French daily *Liberte* said 11 people were killed and 33 injured in the bombing Sunday at a power station on a highway leading to the town of Boufarik south of Algiers.

"Slivers of skin surrounded the electricity station," *Liberte* reported. "Four people in one car were decapitated. The floor is covered in blood and bits of skin stick to what remains of the windows."

Another newspaper, *Al Watan*, reported 12 killed and 15 injured, including 11 seriously. There was no confirmation from police.

It was the worst death toll since Jan. 30 when a suicide car bombing of the capital's central police station killed 42 people.

The papers said the truck blast targeted the power station at Boufarik, 30 kilometres south of Algiers, blowing away several vehicles.

Liberte said in one of the cars damaged, rescuers found a pear lying on the back seat. "Where a three-year-old child was sitting. It had only just been bitten."

"Police could only find the child's little hand. The rest of the body was reduced to a pulp. The mother was also killed, her brains blown out, and the father was seriously injured," it added.

It said three headless bodies lay in a huge pool of blood in an orchard near the highway and body parts could be seen scattered nearby.

The paper said the driver of the lorry which was "probably packed with TNT" also died. The explosion damaged the station, cutting electricity supplies to two regions.

"A horrible scene: More than 10 bodies completely mutilated and charged were lying on the ground within a radius of 100 metres," *Al Watan* said.

It was the second such bomb in a week. A car bomb killed one person and wounded 15 last Tuesday in Ouled Moussa, southeast of Algiers.

In a separate incident, two garrillas on Sunday attacked a police truck with grenades, killing two policemen and wounding about 20 in the Kouba suburb of Algiers, *Al Watan* said.

More than 30,000 people have been killed in Algeria since January 1992 when army-backed authorities cancelled a general election that the country's Islamists were poised to win.

The increase in violence is blamed on the failure of talks nearly a month ago between the military-backed regime of President Liamine Zeroul and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS).

Authorities blamed the failure on the "intransigence" of jailed FIS leaders who refused to issue an appeal for a truce as a pre-condition for their release.

Mr. Zeroul said Sunday the government "has taken and will take all necessary measures to ensure elections are held in peace and security."

House panel to mediate disputes between government, opposition

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Committee on Public Freedoms at the Lower House of Parliament on Monday decided to act as a mediator between the government and opposition parties to help solve a running dispute over human rights, Bassam Haddadin, the committee's rapporteur, said.

Speaking after a meeting with the representatives of 11 opposition parties, Mr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times that the committee planned to arrange a meeting between the opposition parties and the government and probably with His Majesty King Hussein to discuss pressing domestic problems and alleged violations of human

rights in the country.

During Monday's meeting, the opposition raised anti-government charges of withdrawal of passports, detentions, arbitrary transfer of employees and bans on public meetings. The opposition also cited the government ban on a conference that was scheduled to be held in May to protest against the normalisation of Jordanian-Israeli relations, Mr. Haddadin said.

"These are old issues, but we will help solve them," he said. "We are not neutral when it comes to defending human rights issues."

The committee called on the opposition parties to provide documents in cases related to the alleged withdrawal of passports and harassment of political activists at

borders points.

Mr. Haddadin said the Ministry of Interior had provided a list of all Jordanians detained since the beginning of the year to the House but it has not yet been reviewed by the committee.

The committee, which met with Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad last week, is scheduled to meet on Saturday to work on the final draft of its report.

The committee is expected to submit the report, which includes all allegations, including complaints filed by the opposition parties, to the House. A special House session for this purpose is expected to be held during the current extraordinary session.

Talibans said holding Russian gun-runners

KABUL (AFP) — Seven crew-members of a Russian plane alleged to be carrying arms to the Afghan government which was forced to land last week are being held by Taliban religious fighters, a news report said here Monday.

The Ilushin-76 cargo jet was forced to the ground at Kandahar in the south of the country by the Taliban's MiG-21 jet-fighters Thursday and was found to be carrying ammunition and weapons destined for forces loyal to President Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Taliban earlier told AFP.

The crew, all of them Russian, were still being held at Kandahar airport, the Pakistani journalist who went to the area on Saturday with visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asef Ali.

The pilot, who identified himself as Vladimir, told the Pakistani newspaper "The News" that the plane — from the Russian Republic of Tatarstan — had allegedly been chartered by a Kabul official.

"It is one proof of our claim that Russia, India and even Iran are interfering in Afghanistan's affairs by supporting the Rabbani government," Mohammad Abbas, the pro-Taliban mayor of Kandahar, was quoted as saying by The News.

The Taliban said earlier that the aircraft was carrying millions of bullets for AK-47 assault rifles as well as two boxes containing anti-aircraft guns, and accused the Rabbani government of being responsible for chartering the jet.

The religious movement alleged that the plane took off from Tirana, Albania and stopped in Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates before heading for Afghanistan.

But an Afghan Defence Ministry official said Monday that it was still "not clear" who had chartered the aircraft laden with military supplies.

The Defence Ministry has admitted to chartering commercial jets to transport "logistic items" like army uniforms, but has denied that it had done so to transport ammunition supplies.

Fighting continues
Meanwhile forces loyal to President Rabbani have cleared "wide areas" around a strategic district centre in the north of the country of rival faction fighters. Defence Ministry sources said Monday.

"Fighting was around Darayi Suf district centre" in Afghanistan's northern Samangan province, an official said.

He said that although the former-communist Uzbek militia forces of General Abdul Rashid Dostum still controlled the administrative centre of Darayi Suf, the surrounding areas — including an important supply route to the south — had been captured by pro-Rabbani forces.

"Our forces captured a vital point on the supply line between Darayi Suf and Yakaulang," the Defence Ministry added.

Dostum-controlled Yakaulang is an important strategic centre in southern Bamian province, which pro-Rabbani forces have been trying unsuccessfully to capture for the past seven weeks.

The pro-Rabbani forces, which include two ethnic minority Hazara-factions of the Shiite Muslim sect, apparently have a long-term plan of pushing northwards to the capital of Samangan province.

The move would allow them the opportunity of cutting Gen. Dostum's supply line to his troops on the Salang Highway front, but to achieve this, Darayi Suf must first be captured and secured.

But Gen. Dostum and two coalition faction allies have so far not managed to reach the entrance to the highway's Salang Tunnel, which is located in the Hindu Kush mountain range, 120 kilometres north of Kabul.

Judge stays execution of Mumia Abu Jamal

PHILADELPHIA (Agencies) — A judge on Monday delayed the scheduled Aug. 17 execution of former radio reporter and black activist Mumia Abu Jamal for the murder of a police officer.

Judge Albert F. Sabo said the 10 days remaining before the execution date might not be enough time for him to finish hearing Mr. Abu Jamal's request for a new trial and for the condemned journalist to appeal if necessary.

"He has an absolute right to be heard by the highest court in the land — the United States supreme court," Mr. Sabo said.

Mr. Abu Jamal's conviction and death sentence have attracted international attention. The Rev. Jesse Jackson, a former U.S. presidential candidate and prominent civil and human rights activist, joined Mr. Abu Jamal's supporters in court Monday and was given permission by the judge to meet with Mr. Abu Jamal.

Prosecutors say overwhelming ballistics evidence and eyewitness testimony prove that Mr. Abu Jamal shot officer Daniel Faulkner, 25, after finding his brother, William Cook, in a struggle with the officer on a street in December 1981. Faulkner also shot Mr. Abu Jamal, who was working as a cab driver.

Mr. Abu Jamal, now 41, never offered another explanation and his brother never testified. He repeatedly disrupted the trial with political outbursts and several times was removed from the courtroom.

Defence lawyers contend prosecutors and police stacked the trial against the defendant, with Mr. Sabo's approval. Witnesses who could have helped Mr. Abu Jamal's case were coerced to testify against him, intimidated into leaving town or simply unavailable during the trial, they say.

During sentencing, critics say, prosecutors inflamed the mostly white jury by mentioning that Mr. Abu Jamal belonged to the Black Panthers as a teen-ager.

A hearing on whether to grant Mr. Abu Jamal a new trial has been under way since July 26 before Mr. Sabo, who also presided over Mr. Abu Jamal's 1982 trial, when Mr. Abu Jamal labeled the judge a "hangman."

Both sides had expected a stay before Aug. 17 but did not expect Mr. Sabo to rule Monday. The defence had filed an emergency request with the Pennsylvania supreme court last week.

Anti-nuclear rallies mark Hiroshima Day

PARIS (Agencies) — Anti-nuclear activists staged protests across Europe Sunday to mark the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and protest France's decision to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

In Sydney an Australian state government said it was ready to start "economic warfare" with France over its nuclear testing but called on Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating to also step up Canberra's economic sanctions.

New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, said it was prepared to San Francisco-German firm Eurocopter from bidding for a \$3.3 million contract to supply three police helicopters.

State Premier Bob Carr said he would ban Eurocopter, a joint venture between France's Aspacat and Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace, if the Keating government agreed.

"We are happy to open economic warfare between Australia and France by cancelling what is in overall terms, a relatively modest contract," Mr. Carr told reporters in Sydney.

In Tokyo Japan's Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura and 23 other politicians agreed to band together to protest against France's decision to resume nuclear testing, Kyodo News Service reported.

The protesting lawmakers, from both ruling and opposition parties, are planning to take part in an anti-nuclear rally to be held in Tahiti on Sept. 2, it said.

Five of the deputies are planning to join lawmakers from other countries on a boat to the South Pacific to protest France's nuclear tests, Kyodo reported.

In the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Spain and Sweden, demonstrators massed outside French embassies and consulates at the weekend to express their outrage at French President Jacques Chirac's announcement in June that France would carry out eight nuclear tests on the Mururoa atoll from September.

In France, however, it was quiet. But a new survey published Sunday showed that opposition to nuclear tests was gaining ground.

Sixty-two per cent of those questioned want Mr. Chirac to go back on his decision, the Louis Harris Institute survey showed. Conducted on Aug. 2-3, the survey showed that 32 per cent backed Mr. Chirac's decision, while six per cent had no opinion.

An earlier survey, carried out July 24 by the CSA Institute, said 60 per cent wanted

a reversal of Mr. Chirac's decision.

Only small demonstrations were reported in France, the biggest of which was in Paris, where 2,000 people gathered at the Trocadero, near the Eiffel Tower, to protest nuclear arms in general and the resumption of nuclear tests in particular.

Around 40 anti-nuclear protesters, including 92-year-old Theodore Monod, member of the prestigious French Academy of Sciences, were due to start a four-day hunger strike near the headquarters of France's nuclear strike force at Taverny, in a northern suburb of Paris.

They want an immediate halt to all nuclear tests, by France and China, as well as "the abolition of atomic arms by an international convention, along the lines of what exists for chemical and biological arms," a communique from the organisers said.

In Madrid, around 100 people gathered outside the French embassy to chant: "Fifty years are enough, not one more," referring to the fiftieth anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima.

They also collected money to pay for Spanish right-wing opposition leader Jose Maria Aznar, who said recently that he supported Mr. Chirac's decision, to take a holiday in Mururoa.

In downtown Stockholm, hundreds of demonstrators from the group Swedish Peace urged the government to suspend all military cooperation with France.

The group also urged the government to tear up a recent agreement on industrial cooperation between Swedish arms manufacturer Bofors and French arms manufacturer Giat.

In Malmoe, in southern Sweden, members of the youth groups of the Social Democratic and leftist parties walked around the city centre acting out a scene of people dying of nuclear fallout.

"Chirac, don't make the same mistake as U.S. President Harry Truman 50 years ago," one sign read, referring to the U.S. leader's decision to drop the bomb on Hiroshima.

The Swedish government, for its part, called Society for the abolition of all nuclear weapons arsenals within 10 to 15 years and said it would actively work toward disarmament.

In Prague, Greenpeace and a Czech environmental organisation launched a petition in Wenceslas Square against French nuclear tests, and set up a dummy with a gas mask, carrying a sign: "Burning Holidays with Chirac Tours."

Prince, girlfriend on cruise — and mother's there too

LONDON (AP) — Prince Edward is cruising the western isles of Scotland with his girlfriend, and his mother is also on board — increasing speculation that Queen Elizabeth II's youngest son will soon marry. Sophie Rhys Jones, 29, a public relations consultant, slipped aboard the magnificent 412-foot (125-metre) royal yacht Britannia at the south England port of Portsmouth Friday.

The queen, Prince Edward, 31, and the rest of the royal boarded afterward. A Buckingham Palace spokeswoman said Sunday the 10-day cruise was a "private holiday" and refused to comment further.

The presence of Miss Rhys Jones in the queen's party was interpreted by newspapers as a signal of royal approval of the match. The royal yacht, up for sale in 1997 as an economy measure, was used for the honeymoons of Prince Charles and Prince Andrew. Both marriages collapsed — Prince Charles and Princess Diana separated in 1992, just months after Prince Andrew, the former Sarah Ferguson, parted.

Prince Edward's only sister, Princess Anne, was divorced and is now remarried. Prince Edward, who has a theatrical company, has dated Miss Rhys Jones for several years. In May last year, Britain's press complained council censored five tabloid newspapers for publishing sneak photographs of them kissing at Balmoral, the queen's Scottish estate.

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Report: 9 out of 10 pilots sleepy on long flights

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Nine out of 10 Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) pilots travelling across continents suffer so much from jet lag that they have trouble staying awake during flights, according to a study reported Sunday. A team of researchers at Stockholm's Karolinska Institute studied sleeping disorders among SAS pilots and cabin staff between 1992 and 1994, the newspaper Svenska Dagbladet said. The results are to be used in a handbook for SAS staff about how to fight jet lag. Details about how many people were included in the study were not immediately available. "Long flights are a security hazard. Tiredness builds up when you have to readjust your sleeping rhythm again and again," Svenska Dagbladet quoted researcher Torbjorn Akerstedt as saying. The report said one out of 10 pilots complained that their capacity was reduced during 20 per cent of the flight.

Iran minister to visit South Africa

NICOSIA (AP) — Following U.S. objections to growing cooperation between Iran and South Africa, Tehran said Monday its foreign minister is going to Pretoria reportedly to prepare separate commercial oil deals. The state-run Islamic Republic News Agency said Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will stop in South Africa as part of a week-long tour of Southern Africa beginning Aug. 15. He will also visit Zimbabwe and Mozambique.